

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 2nd August, at Shanghai, the wife of E. H. HIRSH, of a son.
On the 3rd August, at Shanghai, the wife of HARRY WILSON, of a son.
On the 6th August, at 46, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, the wife of W. H. BELL, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of a son.
On the 6th August, at Swatow, the wife of F. C. HUTCHER, of a daughter.
On the 6th August, at No. 1, Love Lane, Shanghai, the wife of E. GERECKE, of a daughter.
On the 10th August, at the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, the wife of Major F. W. CAULFIELD, 10th Bombay Light Infantry, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 16th July, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, FLORENCE, daughter of ARTHUR SPRINGTHORPE, of Sydney, Australia, to LOUIS RHYE OXLEY, third son of the Rev. Dr. BEVAN, of Melbourne, Australia.

DEATHS.

On the 31st July, at Chefoo, MARIE CLOTILDE DUVAL (née Figeaud), wife of the late VICTOR LOUIS DUVAL, aged 48 years.
On the 4th August, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, ERNEST WILLIAM RUSSELL, aged 24 years.
On the 12th August, at the Government Civil Hospital, MUNCHEESHAN JEEJEEBHAY VASANIA, of Jeejeebhoy & Co., Hongkong, aged 29 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 10th ult. arrived per M. M. steamer *Caledonien* on the 9th inst. (30 days); and the English mail of the 17th ult. arrived per P. & O. steamer *Chusan* on the 18th inst. (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Japanese Press strongly repudiates the story of there being forty to forty-five thousand Japanese soldiers in civilian dress in Corea.

The Japanese training fleet under the command of Admiral Kamimura, now on its way to Chemulpo, is expected to return to Yokosuka on the 24th inst. by way of Fusan, Gensan, Hakodate and Awamori.

The following telegram appears in the *Shanghai Times*:—Chefoo, August 4.—Bubonic plague has made its appearance in this city again this year. Already many inhabitants have succumbed to it.

According to a Peking message to the *Manila Times* it has been given out by one of the leading Viceroy's that an order for 23,000 rifles has been placed by the Chinese Government in Japan and one for 48 field-pieces in Germany.

On the 12th inst. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., was elected by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce as its representative on the Legislative Council during the absence on leave of Mr. R. Shewan. Mr. Pollock obtained 63 votes to Mr. Hewett's 54.

Three thousand German-drilled troops, composing the Wuchien brigade of Wuchang, arrived at Canton by the China Merchants' steamers *Feiching* and *Taishun* on the 13th inst. They brought eight field guns, and the men were fully equipped with Mausers, etc. They left Hanyang on the 4th inst.

The *Universal Gazette* is informed that Acting Viceroy Tuan of Hupeh has elected a number of cadets from the Military School of Wuchang to accompany the Wuchien troops who are being sent to Kwangsi to render assistance against the rebels. By so doing it is hoped that the cadets may acquire some useful experience of real fighting.

A Northern vernacular paper states that the Russians are building extra forts near Kinchow, in the Liaotung Peninsula, and are recruiting labourers from Tientsin and other parts of Chili. Every day parties of coolies, numbering variously from twenty to three hundred to each party, pass through Shanhaikwan bound for the Liaotung Peninsula, travelling by train and under the guidance of Russian emissaries, and this has given much cause for apprehension to Viceroy Yuan Shikai and General Ma Yukun, the Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chili.

The *Shanghai Times* publishes the following, dated Peking, August 6:—The Chinese Government recently wired to the Chinese Minister that the restrictions imposed on the Chinese merchants that go to the St. Louis Exposition were too severe, and that he should put forth every effort to get them modified. The Chinese Minister has since wired back to the effect that the United States Government has promised that all those Chinese merchants who hold passports issued by Chinese officials and endorsed by an U.S. Consul, are at liberty to go to the scene of the Exposition without any complaint, Chinese labourers excepted.

The Kiating (Szechuen) correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes that the troubles on the Tibetan border at Litang has finally been settled. The Lama who was the leader of the disaffected Tibetans has been captured by the Chinese and taken to Chengtu to be dealt with. The people on the Tibetan border are reported to be extremely friendly to foreigners at the present time.

The *Jiji's* representative in Peking learns that Russian non-combatants continue to come and reside in Manchuria. The families of Russian troops are also living there in great numbers. Russia's colonial policy seems to be gradually achieving success. The Russian order against the export of grain from Newchwang came in force on the 22nd ult. The principal cereals arriving at that port usually come from the south, though there may be some products from Manchuria. It is said that Russia enforced the new measure without any design against Japan, but merely to sustain China's protest and in deference to complaint on the part of poor natives regarding the upward tendency of the price of cereals.

A despatch from a reliable source in Port Arthur, says the *N. C. Daily News*, states that forts and barracks in that place are so crammed full of troops just now that there is no room for any more, without endangering the health of those living in them. Everywhere, from the highest to the lowest, the talk is nothing but of war with Japan, but the enthusiasm amongst the troops does not seem to be such as one would think ought to be shown where the war at all a popular one amongst the Russians of the lower orders. On the 30th ultimo nearly 5,000 infantry packed in long lines of open freight-cars, etc., came filing into the suburbs of Port Arthur. They were said to be brought over from Kirin and Liaoyang to reinforce the garrison. But so filled is Port Arthur already with troops, over and above the number actually required, that after a consultation between Admiral Alexieff Chief in Command in Port Arthur, and the General commanding the newly arrived force, it was decided to send on there 5,000 men, and 1,500 more encamped outside Port Arthur, to garrison Tulienwan and its vicinity.

It is stated in the *China Times* of the 1st inst. that the two Powers whose Ministers agreed to the surrender to the Chinese Government of the *Supao* prisoners are France and Russia. Russia's action is perfectly intelligible, says the *N. C. Daily News*; she has no interest whatever in safeguarding the rights of the Foreign Settlement here, and her present policy is to conciliate in every way the present rulers of China. But our contemporary trusts that the *China Times* is wrong as regards France; it would be pitiable that even to please her ally, France should be so false to her traditional love of liberty and justice. Happily the British Foreign Office has stood fast, and the *Supao* prisoners will not be surrendered to be executed without trial, as Mr. Sheo has been in Peking. The *Shanghai Journal* says in conclusion: "The decision of the British Government will have an effect much beyond the present case. It shows the Chinese officials once more that the British Government will support the rights of the Settlement when appealed to, and it will greatly strengthen the hands of our Municipality."

RUSSIA'S POLICY IN THE NORTH.

(Daily Press, 14th August)

Of how, whilst being absolutely truthful, a telegram may be made to suggest absolute falsehood, we have had one or two recent examples in German telegrams. We have no need here to animadvert on the traditional policy of Germany with regard to Russia, which is, as all the world knows one of extreme caution, at times almost verging on timidity. That is her own affair; and she is doubtless herself convinced that all is right and square as between Russia and Japan, and that the encroachments of the former on Manchuria, and more recently on Corea, do not in any way compromise the position of Japan. It is quite true that the continuous telegrams issued from Laffan's Bureau, stating that war between Russia and Japan was imminent, have turned out so far to be untrue; but the conclusion attempted to be inferred that they were "all nonsense" is by no means borne out by the circumstances of the case. Russia, indeed, though her methods are not as those of the more civilised nations, and partake largely of what we are accustomed to designate as Asiatic duplicity, is by no means novel in her ways, and indeed has a trick of unconsciously repeating herself, which is inconsistent with the highest diplomacy. The situation has, in fact, been strained to the point of endurance, and it has only been the tact and calmness of Japan, doubtless influenced from England, which has prevented up to this an open breach. In many respects, and in none more so than in the action of Russia in occupying in time of peace territories that do not belong to her, the situation exactly reproduces the course of events preceding the Crimean war. On that occasion the Tsar himself had got into a childish contest with Turkey wherein was concerned nothing of greater importance to the world at large, nor indeed to the Latin and Greek Churches, which were supposed by the Tsar to be particularly interested, than the possession of a duplicate key and the fixing of a silver star in an ancient church. After keeping Europe for months in a ferment, Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, who had opportunely returned to his post at Constantinople, by the exercise of a small amount of commonsense settled the weighty question in a couple of weeks, and to the satisfaction of both of the would-be belligerents. But though the sore was healed the pain remained, and was aggravated by the fact that it was an Englishman who had rescued the Tsar from the consequences of his own childishness, so the next step of the Tsar, who at the moment, unlike his great grandson, was *de facto* the Russian Government, was in time of peace to make a demand of the Sultan to let him [the Tsar] manage the other's household. This not being agreed to, the same silly talk of private and secret treaties, and of the great loss the Sultan was undergoing through not shutting his eyes and trusting in the assurances of his benevolent friend and neighbour, was forced on the Government of the Sultan, and the good intentions of Russia towards Turkey were as assiduously pressed as in the present case her amiable wishes for the stability of China are being paraded before all the Courts of Europe. Unfortunately for his project, the Tsar, in a moment of temporary aberration, to which

fortunately most wrongdoers are liable from time to time, made one evening the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg his confidant, so far as to entrust to him his pretty scheme for the division of the heritage of Turkey. "Turkey," he said, "is a sick man—irretrievably sick, in fact on his death-bed, and his heritage must be shortly divided. Now I would not like to do anything without the participation of England. There's Constantinople;—well, I won't let you take that, but there are other places, and I don't much mind what you take, only you must leave me Constantinople." "But, Sir, the patient is not yet dead, and it is not customary to divide the estate till the breath is out." We know the result; but the Tsar has not yet been able to move his winter palace to the mild waters of the Bosphorus, and the Turkish Empire still exists. The parallel is none the less striking that in the present case the autocrat NICOLAS I. has given place to the comparatively insignificant NICOLAS II.; the methods are the same as well as the objects. Peking and the fertile lands of Manchuria and Corea are as tempting as the wide lands of the Balkan Peninsula, and the empire of the Pacific is as much a subject of Russian ambition as the command of the Levant. But there is a difference; with all his faults, and they were many, ABDUL NEDJID never listened to Russian threats, nor did he in return for Russian gold consent to render to the stranger the heritage of his fathers. Russia too has learnt a lesson, and this time she has not made England the repository of her disgraceful secret. Whether, like the wife of MIDAS, she has found a sympathetic marsh to hear that her chief has ass's ears, does not yet appear, nor have any swaying reeds as yet whispered to the world what she would fain conceal but dare not contain. The recipient of the secret this time is certainly not England. Nay, she has plucked up heart of grace, and in the person of the *Times* Correspondent has indicated to Sir CHARLES SCOTT that she wants no English counsel. But though the souging winds have not yet carried her story, her aims are none the less clear than were those of the great Autocrat, whose ways she so awkwardly essays to follow. NICOLAS I., in the moment of his vexation, when Turkey finally refused to extinguish herself, it is recorded, in the sullenness of his despair summoned the chief of his staff, and ordered his troops at once to cross the Pruth, the last act which in time of peace was equivalent to throwing down the gag in the face of Europe; and Europe, possibly more regardful of its rights and interests than the Europe of to-day, accepted it as such. But in those days, as in these, there were those who sincerely desired peace, and who to their honour left not a stone unturned to prevent, even at considerable sacrifice, the horrors of war from breaking forth. So far the German telegrams tell what is but simple truth. "The French and even the English Press are trying to tranquillise public opinion. The United States Government [tries to make itself] fully satisfied as to the course events have taken, and is now waiting the official statement of the Russian Government as to the future of Manchuria." So the European states, waited in 1853 for some declaration of Russia of which they could avail themselves to compel, if necessary, the acquiescence of Turkey. The declaration, however, came not, but in its stead the barbarous slaughter of Sinope, when the Russian fleet without declaration of war bore down upon the unprepared ships of Turkey in the harbour

of Sinope, and wiped them out of existence. Russia has changed her mien but not her methods, and as in 1853 the disguised moderation of the Turkish Sultan warded off from Europe for nearly a year the outbreak of a war she had never provoked, so exactly half a century later it has fallen to the lot of Japan to uphold similarly the peace of the world in a case of equally brutal and unprovoked aggression. The danger is none the less real that by studied moderation Japan has hitherto averted it, but the outer world little knows how near it has been to a war which for good or evil must affect the future not only of Eastern Asia, but of the whole world. For the present, perhaps fortunately for our peace of mind and happiness, these things are hidden away in the mysterious drawers of the various Foreign Offices, but the danger is none the less real that it has not been shouted out on the housetops. It is true that England, so far as the world knows, has not at hand the services of a STRATFORD CANNING, but then on the other hand Russia is not ruled by the autocrat NICOLAS I. We can only hope for the best.

JAPAN'S TRADE IN 1902.

(Daily Press, 14th August.)

Mr. H. G. PARLETT, Acting Japanese Secretary to the British Legation at Tokyo, is responsible for a very long report on the trade of Japan in 1902, issued from the Foreign Office at the end of June, 1902, he states in his introductory remarks, cannot be called a prosperous year for Japan, although the sum total of the country's foreign trade was in excess of that of 1901. It seems that the main favourable circumstances were the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which gave a temporary fillip to trade; and a very good silkworm-crop, with a record export of raw silk in the second half of the year. The sale of fifty million yen worth of Government bonds in London last October would have fostered a further revival of commercial activity but for the anticipations, only too well founded, of a bad rice-crop. The latter misfortune, caused by the autumn floods and storms, and the fall in exchange, which impeded Japan's trade with China, appear to have counteracted the favourable circumstances mentioned above. China is a very important customer for Japan's cotton yarns, coal, and marine products in particular, and the depreciation of silver most seriously affected this trade. Exports to China in 1902 showed a decrease of over £400,000 in value, while imports into Japan from China decreased by about £1,400,000. The fall in silver, however, is not the sole cause of the decline in trade. According to Japanese Government experts, other and weighty reasons have contributed to lessen Japan's trade with China. In the first place it is asserted that the careless methods of the Japanese merchants do not commend themselves to the Chinese. The former seem to think that quality is of no importance in articles which are intended for China, and that cheapness only should be aimed at. This is not a correct view to take. The Chinese do not want bad cheap things. The Japanese manufacturer is, moreover, at no pains to consult Chinese tastes, still less to humour prejudices. This latter is rather interesting to read, in view of the abuse heaped on British manufacturers for the same mistake. The distribution of Japanese trade in

1902 among the countries chiefly interested was as follows:—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
British Empire—			
United Kingdom	£5,141,327	1,770,753	6,912,080
Hongkong	2,061,2	2,341,541	2,392,116
British India	5,382,999	517,283	5,550,282
Australia	171,705	323,818	494,523
Canada	51,805	355,846	407,651
Total	13,618,438	5,809,214	18,257,652

China... £1,143,651 781,434 8,925,034
France... 481,101 2,755,186 3,236,287
Germany... 2,635,691 438,571 3,118,610
United States... 4,906,647 8,100,433 13,157,073

It is to be noted that Hongkong alone of the divisions of the British Empire showed a total decrease from the figures of 1901; imports fell by £386,789 and exports by £1,624,206—a total of no less than £2,510,995. The value of sugar alone imported from Hongkong fell from £1,109,615 in 1901 to £237,379 in 1902; but 1901 was of course an exceptional year owing to the rush to escape the new sugar-duty levied in October. Altogether, between 18 and 19 per cent. of the foreign import trade of Japan was from the United Kingdom and nearly 40 per cent. of it was from the British Empire.

British shipping shows a decrease during 1902 in the number of vessels entering Japanese ports, but an increase in their tonnage. The passenger traffic to England via Suez still goes, in the absence of a direct line of British steamers, to the German, French, and Japanese mails; some of this will, however, be diverted to the Siberian line. The number of British sailing ships to Japan is slowly decreasing. Of other foreign nations, France and Germany showed a decline in their total shipping, and Russia and the United States an increase on the figures of 1901.

We have not space here to deal with Mr. PARLETT's remarks on the financial history of Japan in 1902, which we must therefore leave for another occasion. We may note, however, that the most remarkable features of the financial year were the steady accumulation in the banks of deposits and an equally steady import of specie into Japan. The year 1902 closed on quiet markets and full banks; says Mr. PARLETT.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(Daily Press, 11th August.)

To-morrow afternoon a special general meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce will be held to nominate a member of the Chamber to take the place in the Legislative Council of the Hon. R. SHEWAN, now on leave. At yesterday's meeting of the Council unfortunately the Chamber of Commerce was unrepresented; it appears to us that the Government might well have made the very slight postponement necessary to enable the newly elected member to take part in so important a debate as that which took place yesterday. Two candidates only, as far as we know, will be before the Chamber's electorate to-morrow, Mr. E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, proposed by Mr. J. H. LEWIS and seconded by Mr. E. W. MITCHELL, and Mr. H. E. POLLOCK K.C., proposed by Mr. D. R. LAW and seconded by Mr. N. A. STEES. That both these gentlemen are well known and prominent residents in the Colony it is hardly necessary to say. Both, too, already serve the public and assist the Government in the capacity of members of the Sanitary Board. But here their qualifications diverge. Mr. HEWETT as superintendent

of the greatest shipping firm out here may safely claim to supply that shipping and commercial element which is looked for in the representative of the Chamber of Commerce of this great shipping and commercial port. It has been a tradition of the Chamber that its representative on the Legislative Council should have such qualifications. Mr. HEWETT is, too, a man who in Shanghai attained so important a post as the Chairmanship of the Municipal Council, beside exercising other public functions and proving himself fully qualified for the busy life of one who has very numerous interests. Since his return to Hongkong he has reached the position of Chairman of the Chamber; he distinguished himself by his activity on the Coronation Celebration committee; and in many other ways has increased the reputation which preceded him here from Shanghai. But, on the other hand, he is already Chairman of the Chamber, and this seems to us to create a serious obstacle. The Chamber cannot want to see its Chairman's action trammelled by his connection with the Council in the capacity of its representative. This difficulty could, of course, be got over by Mr. HEWETT's resignation of his post in the Chamber. Again, it appears to us a serious drawback against candidature for the Legislative Council to be already a member of the Sanitary Board. It is most desirable to avoid having one man a member alike of the highest Council and of the Sanitary Board, whose proceedings ultimately come up for judgement before that Council. Lastly, though Mr. HEWETT's years in Shanghai do not make him the less an old resident in Hongkong, yet perhaps his absence has made him less in touch with the Colony as it is to-day, and his return to us is of too recent date to remove completely this objection.

Mr. POLLOCK's claims to sit on the Legislative Council of Hongkong are undoubtedly powerful. For fifteen years, interrupted only by his brief migration to Fiji, he has lived here and busied himself in public movements. Apart from the intimate knowledge of Hongkong which he must thus have accumulated, his legal training and particularly his tenure of the important post of Acting Attorney-General qualify him admirably for assisting in making the laws of the Colony, which in fact he has already helped to do. But against his claims must be set the facts that Mr. POLLOCK is not a shipping or commercial man (though no one can doubt that he has a wide knowledge from outside of shipping and commercial matters), but a lawyer, and that he is quite a recent member of the Chamber of Commerce. His membership of the Sanitary Board is against him, as in the case of Mr. HEWETT, and this objection we cannot help feeling to be strong against both candidates. It is rather remarkable that both nominees at to-morrow's meeting should be labouring under this defect. Some surprise may legitimately be felt that Mr. R. C. WILCOX has not been asked to stand again, seeing that he is undoubtedly qualified and that he is not open to the objection which tells against both Messrs. HEWETT and POLLOCK. It is possible for a business man to undertake too many responsibilities, whereby some of his work may suffer. However, it must be confessed that both candidates have shown both aptitude and liking for plenty of work. On this ground it would be hard to choose between them. Indeed, the decision looks a difficult one from most points of view. The verdict may depend chiefly on whether the members of the Chamber of Commerce consider the commercial qualifications of

their representative to be essential and whether they are unwilling to lose their Chairman as a consequence of elevating him to the Council.

(Daily Press, 13th August.)

As the result of a close poll yesterday afternoon, Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., was elected by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce as its representative on the Legislative Council during the absence on leave of Mr. R. SHEWAN. The majority in his favour was nine, as he obtained 63 votes to Mr. E. A. HEWETT's 54; there were therefore about twenty votes only short of a full Chamber—a fact which shows that a healthy interest was taken in the election. Proceedings were commendably brief, for it was no doubt felt that, both candidates being so well known in the community, long speeches were not required to impress their claims on the voters' minds. What remarks were made were to the point, and the scrutineers were able to proceed to the count with promptitude. It was soon seen that the contest would be a close one, but when Mr. POLLOCK's victory was announced it was received with applause, and congratulations were showered upon him, his opponent being among the first to felicitate him. The Chamber of Commerce has elected a very able representative, in whose hands we are sure that its interests will rest safely. What objections there are to Mr. POLLOCK's occupancy of the post we mentioned in this column on Tuesday. But of the very solid merits which the new member of Council has to outweigh these objections there cannot be the slightest doubt. It may be feared whether a seat on the Legislative Council as well as one on the Sanitary Board, added to Mr. POLLOCK's professional occupation, will not prove a heavy tax; but Mr. POLLOCK's fondness and aptitude for hard work are familiar to all who know him. We congratulate him upon his elevation to the Council and also congratulate the Chamber on the possession of so capable a representative. It is to be regretted only that the constitution of the Legislative Council does not admit of the claims to a place of Mr. HEWETT being also recognised, though he, too, like Mr. POLLOCK, is already among the busiest men in the Colony.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GARDENS.

(Daily Press, 12th August.)

It is with much satisfaction we note the new departures inaugurated by the Superintendent of the Afforestation Department. Mr. DUNN has brought fresh ideas with him, and he is evidently anxious that the Public Gardens, of late years deserted by all but nurses and children, should arouse the interest and receive the attention of residents as well as of passing visitors. The Gardens are charmingly situated and being on the higher levels they command most pleasing views of the harbour and city. But the ordinary resident had long ceased to find much pleasure in them. The quietude and peace that should mark these retreats had ceased to exist. Dirty coolies with bare legs and feet tucked under them sat and smoked their noxious tobacco and indulged in the national habit unchecked and unrestrained, and unruly children contending with shrill-voiced amahs provided undesired animation on the lower terraces. The new Superintendent is going to remedy all this, or at any rate confine the more blatant nuisances within bounds. A set of regulations for the maintenance

of good order and the preservation of property in the Public Gardens has been drawn up, and was reprinted from the *Government Gazette* in our columns on Monday. These provide for the preservation of the flowers and plants, the Kennedy statue, the greenhouses, cages, bandstand, etc.; also that persons frequenting the Gardens shall be properly clothed, shall not lie upon or put their feet on the seats, fly kites, carry loads, or use the Gardens as a thoroughfare. Dogs will only be allowed when on leash, and no public or private vehicles, except sedan chairs for the use of invalids, will be permitted in the Gardens. Power is also reserved to the Superintendent to close the Gardens or any portion thereof and grant admission thereto by ticket or otherwise on such occasions as may be approved by the Governor.

These regulations have, now the Colony has grown to its present proportion, become absolutely necessary if the Gardens are to be—as they were originally intended to be—the botanical centre of Hongkong, and a pleasant retreat from the noise and bustle of the traffic on the lower levels. We are glad, therefore, to see them inaugurated, and believe they will serve to render the Gardens more popular. Mr. Dunn is doing his best to stimulate interest in his department, and it is to be hoped that every encouragement will be given to him, by appreciation from the Government and the public, to continue his efforts to promote botanical knowledge and help to develop the natural resources of the Colony. There is a considerable field here for the botanist to explore, and we doubt not that, before long, Mr. Dunn will be able to make some discoveries of interest in the New Territory, if not on the island of Hongkong. In connection with his work, we trust the Government will see its way to increase the very slender vote hitherto accorded to the Afforestation Department. There is much to be done, both on this island and on the mainland, not only in the shape of afforestation but also in the way of forming nurseries, wherein experiments could be made with different products adapted to the soil and climate or that might be induced to thrive on the slopes. The Chinese would be only too willing to try new crops, no doubt, if it were demonstrated to them that they could succeed in raising them for the local market. The success that has attended the cultivation of the pineapple on the slopes of Timoshan is a case in point. The hills, too, require planting on a large scale, and their more effective conservation is most desirable, to which end the staff of forest rangers should be increased. Efforts should also be made to grapple with newly introduced parasites which threaten to overrun the entire island if left to riot unmolested. We refer more especially to the *Mimosa sensitiva* (sensitive plant), the *Pantana*, and the *Aggeratum*, all of which are quite recent introductions, and are spreading in various parts in the rankest profusion, despoiling the turf and choking garden beds. The first named is amazingly prolific, scatters its seeds far and near, and, contrary to all preconceived ideas, is very hardy and difficult of extermination. Mr. Dunn will, we trust, wage war against this intruder and check its progress, otherwise it will soon be almost impossible to preserve a piece of good green sward in the Colony. As we have already indicated, there is plenty of scope for the new Superintendent's energies, and if the Government will only increase the botanical vote, there is no doubt, important developments in this direction will take place in the next few years.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 10th inst. in the Council Chamber.

Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, Kt. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer), Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works), Hon. J. M. ATKINSON (Principal Civil Medical Officer).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G., Hon. WEI YUK, Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. H. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute (No. 35) and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 6) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report on the Assessment for 1903-1904 and the Report on the New Territories for 1902.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table the Report of the Public Works Committee (No. 5).

VICTORIA DAY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to set apart a holiday to be known as "Victoria Day" in loving remembrance of Her Most Gracious Majesty the late Queen Victoria. He said—The object of the introduction of this Ordinance everyone is aware of. It is to celebrate and keep in loving memory the birthday of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria by setting apart a day to be observed as a general holiday in the Colony. In doing this we are following the example of, if not setting the example to, the rest of the Empire. I move, sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill and considered it clause by clause, and one alteration having been made the third reading was not taken.

INTRUSION INTO SERVANTS' QUARTERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to prevent intrusion by persons other than the servants of the occupier of premises into the portion of such premises used as servants' quarters. He said—Sir,—This Bill has been produced because of the inconvenient and injurious habit which has grown up among the servants of people here of introducing into the quarters set apart for them by their masters friends and outside coolies and others who in very many cases pass the night there. These quarters only contain room for the servants, and the result is that, apart from the annoyance and the noise of having these persons in the house and premises, the masters of the houses may render themselves liable for an infringement of the public health laws in respect of overcrowding of their premises. The Ordinance makes it a punishable offence for outside coolies or persons not belonging to the house, not in the employ of the occupier of the premises, to occupy without his permission the quarters provided for servants. I think the House will accept the principle of the bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the second reading was agreed to.

The Council resolved itself into committee and considered the Bill clause by clause.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he was willing

to receive suggestions with regard to the penalty proposed—\$25 or 3 months.

H. E. the GOVERNOR said he thought that 3 months was too hard an alternative penalty.

The COLONIAL TREASURER suggested that the proposed term of imprisonment be left out of the Bill altogether, leaving it to the Magistrate to impose what alternative he thought fit in each case.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL signified his assent.

On the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

CHARGE FOR IMBECILES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the Recovery of Costs and Charges incurred by the Colony by and on behalf of imbecile persons introduced into the Colony. He said—The reason for introducing this measure is that the Colony has from time to time been put to expense by having thrown on its charge imbecile persons brought here and left here without being able to pay for their upkeep in the hospitals and other charitable institutions to which they have been removed. It is considered to be a charge which the Colony as a whole should not be called upon to bear, and that those who bring such persons here without taking care that they do not become a charge upon this Colony ought to bear the cost. Similar legislation has been adopted in other colonies—Australia and New Zealand—and although it is new to Hongkong I do not think we can be doing wrong in following the example of the colonies I have named. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the second reading was agreed to.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, which was eventually referred to the Law Committee.

WATER SUPPLY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to repeal The Water-works Consolidation Ordinance, 1902, and to provide for and regulate the Supply of Water in the Colony of Hongkong and for the Maintenance and Repair of the Works in connection therewith. He said—Your Excellency and the Council will see from the title of the Bill that it is proposed to repeal an Ordinance which was passed by this Council last year. The reasons why the Government introduce this Bill are that on further consideration it has appeared that all the objects aimed at by the Bill of 1902, principal among which is the supply of a sufficient quantity of water to the town of Victoria with the least possible waste, may be effected without incurring the hardships which the Bill of 1902 would have unavoidably inflicted on a certain section of the community using water. The means by which this will be effected is known technically as the rider-main system. Rider-mains are a means by which the supply of water can be regulated to blocks of houses as effectively as it can be by meters in the case of single houses. The Director of Public Works has provided me with a very full and at the same time succinct statement of the objects and reasons for the introduction of the Bill. These objects and reasons are printed, and I do not know that I can add anything to them. The principle is that while we can we ought to give water to everyone in the town of Victoria, so long as it can be done without waste. We believe that this Bill will enable us to give the whole community of Hongkong the water that they require without inflicting upon them what in many cases would be the irksome and sometimes hard necessity of having to go long distances for their water.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

H. E. Major-General GASCOIGNE—Sir, I beg with the utmost respect to move an amendment—that the second reading of this Bill be postponed until the matter can have been threshed out thoroughly in the Council. This Bill was intended to supersede one passed last year. That Bill was passed after not one meeting of the Executive Council but, I should think, quite half-a-dozen. We met time after time, we heard arguments used, we adjourned the Council to look into these arguments and gradually reasons were given, and

eventually after about half-a-dozen meetings those members who were against it came round and gave their adhesion to it and then it passed to the Legislative Council with the result, I think I am safe in saying—I am speaking from memory—that, immediately, the Legislative Council, knowing that it had been threshed out most thoroughly in the Executive Council, were willing to let it go freely and without opposition. Then I think I am right in saying that your Excellency yourself when you came back to the Colony described it as a most excellent Bill. The present Bill came to me the other day and its first reading was an absolute surprise, as I had happened not to have looked at it. I got an order for the Council to assemble 48 hours before it did assemble and I happened to look over the orders of the day only a few hours before the Council. Then I read with surprise that the Bill was to be read a first time, doing away with a Bill which I had taken a vast deal of interest in and without my knowing a single thing about it. The consequence was I was in a dilemma. I got up. Perhaps I was out of order; the Attorney-General said I was out of order speaking on the first reading and must make a motion and in order therefore to do so I moved that the Bill be not read a first time, not with the view of stifling discussion, which has been one thing I have had always in my mind, but to give as free and full a discussion as I can; and I simply had no other way I knew of to attract the attention of the Council to the extraordinary words that Mr. Chadwick spoke to me in my house last year. I was really under the belief that the Council was unaware of these words. It was after the Council had passed the first reading that for the first time I received the whole papers connected with it. I saw that much that I rose to say I should not have said. I saw that a number of suggestions I had made—that the matter should be passed to Mr. Chadwick and Professor Simpson—had been adopted, but I was absolutely unaware of these, and although I studied in the short time these papers that were sent to me and read every word of them I cannot say that I have thoroughly grasped it yet. And it is a subject which I must say is a most important one for Hongkong. Perhaps, having gone through that anxious time as I did, I may exaggerate the importance of it. I am just about to leave the Colony and it cannot affect me personally, but all I can say is that the matter of the waste of water, in this tricky climate, and in view of the precarious, curious way that these seasons do not follow one another, depending as we do on rain-water, there is no subject we can bring before the Council that is of the same importance; and therefore I respectfully say that before it goes into the second reading I would like to propose as an amendment that it be postponed until it can be thoroughly discussed in the Executive Council as I should like, myself, to ask several questions that I think bear upon it and would be better asked in the Executive Council than here. When it has passed the Executive Council, then send it to the Legislative Council; and, whether they go in for it or not, they will have the feeling that it has been passed by a number of men, among whom the unofficial members are represented, who are in possession of facts which the Legislative Council are unable to use. I do not know whether anybody will second me, but the amendment I propose is that the second reading of this Bill be postponed until the whole Bill can be discussed thoroughly by the Executive Council.

The amendment was not seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Although no one has seconded the amendment proposed by H.E. the General Officer Commanding the Troops, still I think it is as well to place the Council in possession of the facts of my position in this matter, regarding which there is some misconception. Undoubtedly the usual course with this Bill would be to place it before the Executive Council, and I may tell you that as a matter of fact the papers have already been before every member of the Executive Council, who are all here. However, I should like to tell you in a few words as I can what has taken place with regard to this Bill. On the 29th of August a petition was sent forward in reference to the Ordinance of last year. An unsigned copy of

that petition was sent to the Secretary of State by the Officer Administering the Government, with his remarks upon both the Ordinance and the petition. On the 3rd of September the signed petition was sent forward by the Officer Administering the Government with a despatch which said that it was signed and practically unanimously supported by the principal Chinese landowners, merchants, traders, and shopkeepers. On the 6th of September another despatch was forwarded conveying the suggestion that an amount of money should be authorised for the purpose of supplying street fountains, but that if the Bill which had been sent home was not approved, that money would not be required. I returned to the Colony on the 9th of September, and on my return the papers were sent up to me simply for my information. I saw that an Ordinance—this Water Ordinance—had been passed, and I thought it was an excellent Ordinance. I did not read it, and know nothing more than that it was an Ordinance for the purpose of preventing waste of water. On the 31st of October I received the telegram:—"Referring to your despatch No. 393 and 414 [despatches by the Officer Administering the Government], I consider that in view of the influential signatures action will be suspended. It is my intention to consult Mr. Chadwick and Prof. Simpson. Is compromise possible? Please forward your views." Well, now, I think that on the last occasion on which H. E. the General Officer Commanding the Troops spoke on this subject, he said the answer to that telegram should have been "No; for we know no other way of preventing waste but the way recommended by Mr. Chadwick the expert you yourself sent out." I admire firmness very much, and I have no doubt it is a very pleasant feeling to now and again be able to call the tune while your neighbour plays the piper. For the first time, after I received that despatch, I got a copy of the Ordinance and I examined the Ordinance, I examined the petition, and I examined Mr. Chadwick's report of the 10th April, and I did not think that the answer should be "No," because, having read the Ordinance for the first time, and also being other documents, I came to the conclusion that a compromise was desirable, very desirable. I communicated with the Chinese community, and on the 14th of November the representatives of the Chinese met, and they forwarded to me the following resolution:—"Resolved.—That this meeting approve of the system of rider-mains; (2) that the cost and expense in connection with the laying of rider-mains be met by a special tax on the landowners of Chinese houses, and that the increased cost of maintaining such services be met by a permanent tax of 1½ per cent. on the rateable value of Chinese houses; (3) that should the owners of European houses desire to adopt rider-mains, they should pay a special tax; and (4) should owners of property refuse to pay a special tax and adopt the rider-main system, they should be bound to adopt the meter system." Well, when I received that resolution, I forwarded a telegram to the Secretary of State, saying that the Chinese community agreed to the adoption of the rider-main system, the entire expense being borne by owners of property affected, and that I considered this system satisfactory. The matter was then hung up. We waited for communication from home. The first communication received from home was received in the month of March. That communication was enclosing Mr. Chadwick's report. I may say that a month later we received a despatch enclosing previous letters from Mr. Chadwick from the Crown Agents through whom the matter was referred to him for report, and this is his letter, written on 12th February:—"In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that I am engaged in writing my report on the Hongkong Water Ordinance and that I hope to have it completed in the course of a week or so. I may say that the Ordinance as it stands is not one to which the Royal assent should be given, and with your permission I will consider the alterations that are necessary to make it a really workable enactment. I doubt whether any time will be gained by submitting a report on the Ordinance without some suggestions as to its amendment." The other document I received was Mr. Chad-

wick's report. Mr. Chadwick's report was a long one and I find in Section 13 he says:—"Since the petition of the Chinese householders has been under consideration a telegram has been received to the effect that the Chinese community agree to rider-mains. This is an arrangement which I suggested when last in Hongkong to mitigate the evils of the intermittent supply of water, always serious, but more so when the system of distributory pipes is not as in the present case expressly designed for this system of water distribution." Then he summarises the advantages of the rider-main system and in Section 18 he says:—"I cannot remember whether I had any part in drafting the Ordinance in question, as regards the text at least. Its date is subsequent to my departure. During the latter part of my visit I was fully employed in conjunction with Professor Simpson and other officers of Government in the consideration of the Sanitary and Buildings Ordinance. Be this as it may, I am free to admit that the enactment, if I am responsible for its draughtsman's ship, is lacking in precision." Again in Section 23 he says:—"I observe that the petitioners accept the rider-main system, a resolution which is confirmed by telegram. I recommend that immediate steps be taken to introduce it at the earliest possible date. Its effect will be two-fold. It will mitigate the evils of the intermittent system, and secondly, it will be a permanent improvement inasmuch as it will facilitate the detection of waste. Thirdly, it will greatly facilitate the voluntary introduction of meters. Any tenant wishing for a constant supply at all seasons may remain connected with the principal main. It might even be well to give instructions to carry out the rider-mains without waiting for the submission of this report or for its transmission to the Colony." Now, as is usual, those papers were laid on the table for the information of the members of the Executive Council, but, as I said, this had been hung up pending the reply to these reports and despatches. Then the matter got into the hands of the Director of Public Works for the purpose of considering how the principle of the rider-mains could best be adopted; and it was not until the month of August that it came back and was in point of fact ready for consideration by the Executive Council. Now in ordinary cases it would have been considered by me in Executive Council and it was so intended but was brought on here with other Bills that were ready for this Council; and in the face of such reports as these, I have no doubt in my mind and I think I am safe in saying, the Executive Council would have accepted the principles so clearly laid down by Mr. Chadwick. I share in the surprise of His Excellency the Major-General Commanding the Troops at the apparently sudden change in the feelings of Mr. Chadwick with reference to these rider-mains. At the same time I cannot go beyond the fact that in the letter of 10th April he had recommended these rider-mains and that it was from his recommendation that the original petition had been framed. I think it right to tell you so much, because I think it is well to make my position in this perfectly clear. I do not see any necessity for its being taken out of the hands of the Legislative Council and I simply put the motion that the Bill be read a second time.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was left in the Committee stage.

EXPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the Regulation of the Export of Cattle and other Live Stock from the Colony. He said—This Bill is the result of representations that have been made, as to cruelties, whether intentional or not, inflicted on cattle and other live stock in the course of their transport from this Colony to places outside the Colony by ships and vessels trading between this Colony and other ports. The object of this Bill is to ensure that arrangements shall be made whereby the sufferings of cattle and other live stock exported from this Colony shall be lessened and so far as possible minimised. The Bill provides that the regulations which will affect the export of these animals from this Colony may be made by the Governor in Council in such manner and at such times as may seem

necessary and expedient, and also makes any infringement, any disobedience, any contravention of any rule or regulation made a punishable offence. The Council will no doubt adopt the principle of the Bill, which is one to alleviate the suffering, in many cases the unnecessary suffering, of live stock going to places outside the Colony. I ask that the Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the second reading was agreed to.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, when, on the suggestion of the HARBOUR MASTER, an amendment was made to include the regulation of the import as well as of the export of cattle and other live stock.

The third reading was not taken when the Council resumed.

FORESHORES AND SEA BED ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance, No. 21 of 1901, and to repeal sub-section (1.) section 1 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1902.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

LAND CLAIMS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 18 of 1900, entitled an Ordinance to facilitate the hearing, determination, and settlement of land claims in the New Territories, to establish a Land Court, and for other purposes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, I do not think I can give my support to this Bill for the third reading. My reasons I gave in committee at the last meeting of Council, and I will not trouble hon. members by repeating them. I only wish to remind the Council that my principal objection to the Bill was that it is retrospective, and if it passes into law it will cause great hardship and do injustice to certain claimants and also unsettle the title and rights of those who have acquired them from the original claimants and have already paid the purchase money upon the faith that the claim, once having been admitted by the Land Court, was all sufficient. For that reason I think the Ordinance should not be passed, and I propose to oppose it as a protest against its passing.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The ground on which the hon. member opposes the third reading of the Bill are very generally stated, and it is difficult to give him an answer. So far as I can see, what he calls hardship will be felt only by some speculators in land. Some purely speculative dealings in land may not realise the expectations of those who have been making such speculations, the Council does not recognise these speculations, nor does the law. Supposing, for the sake of argument, a man came before the Land Court and established a claim for which he paid some \$100, and having bought the land he says—"I am now about to improve this land I have bought, and make docks and one thing and another." Then he sells his claim for \$50,000, and by and by somebody else buys it for \$500,000. In the meantime the matter is sent up to the Land Court, which has allowed the claim of the original claimant who paid \$100. A considerable period elapses, the Land Court has a great amount of work to do, and does not always get its reports in with great rapidity. The papers come before the Governor-in-Council, who has the duty cast upon him of determining whether the Land Court having allowed the claim, he shall grant a title. The House will see at once that there is a great distinction between a claim and a title—allowing a claim and granting a title; nothing can be sold until a title has been granted. The question for the Governor-in-Council is whether a title shall be granted or not, and he decides that the title shall not be granted, but that the land shall be retained for the public benefit. This requires that the person who acquired the land shall be granted compensation. What does that compensation amount to? The compensation that man is entitled to is \$100. He has sold his claim for \$100, and all that he is entitled to get from the Government as compensation is \$100. In such cases there is no hardship whatever involved, but on the other hand there is a

distinct hardship on the public, and a danger to the public interests, where it is probable, obvious, that by some oversight, some misconception, or by some imposition upon it, the Land Court has given an erroneous decision, or where the Land Court is believed, by those who have the public interests in their protection, to have given an erroneous decision; and where these cases arise, or there is reason to believe they have arisen, there should be power to appeal. That does not necessarily mean to overthrow; it means to have a re-hearing, an investigation, to make sure that a decision which may affect the public interests to a very large extent is an accurate and proper one. That is what the Bill proposes to do: it does not in effect or practice impose any hardship on any person. All it does is to protect the public interests by making sure that the decisions of the Land Court are such as the Governor-in-Council may consider just and proper.

The motion for the third reading was carried, and the Bill was passed.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, presiding.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Sixteen thousand Dollars (\$16,000) in aid of Public Works Extraordinary to meet expenditure rendered necessary by rain-storm damages:—

Repairing roads, including landslips and bridges,	\$10,300
Repairing Tai-po Road,	3,200
Repairing nullahs,	2,500
Total,	\$16,000

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (resident), presided, and there were also present—Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. E. A. Hewett; Dr. W. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Burnett, Assistant M.O.H.; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

TANKS IN SECOND AND THIRD STREET.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the retention of the tanks, etc., in Second and Third Streets.

The President in a letter to the Colonial Secretary pointed out that if H.E. the Governor desired that the wash-houses and tanks be continued it would be necessary for them to maintain the staff there and purchase the coal, wood, etc.

H. E. the Governor replied:—"The retention of the tanks, etc., will rest with the Sanitary Board. In my opinion wash-houses and tanks are most valuable means of combating plague, remembering that we have found bugs, fleas, etc., infected."

The PRESIDENT—I think the members will agree with me that it will be a most useful measure to retain these wash houses and tanks which have been in use in the experimental block which H. E. the Governor took over, and I move that the Sanitary Board approve of these wash-houses and tanks being retained.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was carried.

A MEMBER'S PROTEST.

Mr. HEWETT, pursuant to notice, asked—Why is it that some of the members of the Sanitary Board were not notified that it was the intention of His Excellency the Governor to hand back to the Sanitary Board on the 3rd instant that section of the town in which for the last three months an important and interesting experiment in house-cleansing and disinfecting has been carried out under

His Excellency's supervision? Why is it that in so important a matter a portion of the Board was kept in entire ignorance of what was to take place and are dependent for their information, with regard to the doings of the Sanitary Board, upon the local Press? Mr. Hewett was pressing to speak on the questions, when

The PRESIDENT (interposing) said—You will excuse me calling you to order. You are not at liberty to speak on the questions.

Mr. HEWETT—I cannot speak on these questions?

The PRESIDENT—No.

Mr. HEWETT—I beg your pardon.

The PRESIDENT said the reply to the questions was that he did not make the arrangements for the meeting, and was not able to say why the other members of the Board were not invited. He himself only received intimation of the meeting an hour and a half before it was held last Bank Holiday. He was sure His Excellency the Governor would be very pleased at the interest taken in the meeting by the member who had asked these questions.

RUBBISH ON THE PRAYA.

Mr. HEWETT asked if the attention of the P.C.M.O. had been drawn to the accumulation of rubbish on the Praya last Saturday, and what steps had been taken to prevent a repetition of this nuisance?

The PRESIDENT called upon the Medical Officer of Health as executive officer to reply.

Dr. PEARSE stated that the rubbish was not taken away because the dust-boats did not come to the stations on account of the typhoon signal having been up. It had often happened that during bad weather the rubbish was not taken away, and as long as the present method of disposal was retained there would be accumulations of rubbish. The only way to prevent them would be to erect refuse-destructors in Victoria and Kowloon. However, instructions had been issued to the contractor and the district inspector that in future when the dust-carts arrived at the stations and found that the boats had not arrived at the wharves they must be sent to the extreme east and west of the town. He added that it was not the custom of the Board's inspectors to report these matters to the P.C.M.O.; Inspector Grice duly reported the matter to him (Dr. Pearce) and as soon as he knew that the boats had not come took steps to have the rubbish removed as soon as possible.

At a later stage.

Mr. HEWETT said he was not satisfied with the answers given and asked if he could move the adjournment of the debate to discuss the matter.

The PRESIDENT replied that he could move the suspension of the standing orders, which would have to be seconded.

Mr. HEWETT moved accordingly.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. HEWETT then addressed the Board. He said that to his certain knowledge two very large heaps of rubbish, one fifty feet long, were deposited some time early on Saturday morning on the Praya, and remained there till sundown. When they were removed he did not know; all he knew was that the first junk which got alongside did so at 4.30 p.m., and at 5.30 p.m., when he was on the Praya, a small portion of the rubbish had been removed. It might be pleaded by the responsible contractor that a possible typhoon prevented the junks from getting there sooner, but if anyone could give an accurate weather forecast it was the master of a Chinese junk, and from the aspect of the weather on Friday afternoon or evening it was most improbable that a typhoon would visit the Colony. All the small sampans returned to their places in the harbour in the afternoon, and the big sailing junks might have been back in time; anyway, they should have returned earlier than half-past four, and if they could not do that the contractor ought to have sent a launch to bring them in. Those large quantities of refuse lay on the Praya the whole of Saturday. Fortunately it was a dull day, otherwise the nuisance would have been very much worse. He need hardly remind the Board, continued Mr. Hewett, that such a state of affairs was most insanitary and most undesirable. They all knew perfectly well that there had been occasions when junks could not come to the Praya on account of bad weather, and even at

this late hour of the day it might be advisable and necessary to devise a rule whereby, in the event of a typhoon preventing the rubbish from being removed, the stuff should be carried to a part of the town where there were fewer houses. It was to be hoped that there would not be a recurrence of the incident, and if the contractor was in any way to blame he ought to be punished. If any private householder dumped rubbish in the Praya at all hours of the day he would be fined, and very properly so, and it was not right that any servant of the Sanitary Board should be allowed to dump down rubbish in a busy part of the town, to the detriment of the public health.

The PRESIDENT said this difficulty had arisen before when typhoon signals had been hoisted or a typhoon was imminent. He thought that was a sufficient excuse on behalf of the contractor, because so long as the signals were hoisted he was not justified in discarding them. To his own knowledge, said the President, the whole of Saturday and also on Sunday morning Causeway Bay was simply loaded with junks and sampans. Of course, he saw as well as Mr. Hewett that it was most undesirable that such an accumulation of rubbish should gather, and in order to avoid it in future Dr. Pearce had issued instructions to the contractor to engage coolies when necessary to take this rubbish over to No. 1 Health District, right out at the eastern outskirts of the town, or to No. 10 Health District, in the western outskirts of the town.

SOKUNPO MARKET.

Correspondence was submitted relative to Sokunpo market and the desirability of doing away with hawking in the near vicinity, it being stated that of the 62 stalls 22 cannot be let.

It was agreed to take steps to put down this objectionable hawking.

PROSECUTING INSPECTOR.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, Inspector H. Gidley, vice Inspector Allen, on leave, was authorised to institute proceedings before the Magistrate against persons contravening Section 16 of Ordinance 1 of 1903.

ADVERTISING.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to inserting an advertisement re notice of intention to limewash premises, the request to advertise being based on the number of letters otherwise required to convey this information and the consequent expenditure of time and labour.

The request was returned from the Colonial Secretary's Office with the suggestion that there should be made out a form of letter which could be printed at the Gaol and sent to each householder concerned.

The President, in a minute attached, pointed out that an annual expenditure of \$700 was incurred by advertising the limewashing notices to warn owners that biennial limewashing must be done. This had been carried on for years and he doubted whether it was worth the money spent. If notices were printed as suggested it would be impracticable to send them to every owner. He thought this advertisement might cease now; it ought to be generally known by this time that biennial limewashing was required.

Mr. Pollock:—"Continue present practice."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—"This has always been done, has it not?"

It was agreed to insert the necessary advertisement in the local English and Chinese newspapers.

INSANITARY FORESHORE AT HUNGHOM.

Correspondence relative to the insanitary condition of the foreshore at the Electric Light Station, Hunghom, was submitted.

Dr. PEARSE read a report on the subject.

Mr. POLLOCK suggested that the drainage pipe there be led farther out into the sea.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the benefit to be derived from that was questionable.

Mr. Pollock said that Dr. Swan blamed the proximity of this pipe for having done with the illness of Mr. Johnstone's child there.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he believed that Dr. Swan had mistaken for a drainage pipe the pipe used in connection with supplying water to the condenser at the Electric Works. There was no drain nearer than a quarter of a mile.

Mr. POLLOCK remarked that a quarter of a mile was near enough to be a danger, especially if a wind was blowing from the water.

The discussion then dropped.

EXEMPTION APPLICATION.

An application was made for exemption from reducing the bridges of Nos. 2, 4, Morrison Hill Road and 175, 177, Wanchai Road to a legal width of 3 ft. 6 in.

The President:—"Recommend exemption by the Governor in Council."

The application was granted.

SMOKE NUISANCE IN WANCHAI.

There was laid on the table correspondence relative to the complaint by certain owners, shopkeepers and occupiers of houses in Kennedy and Tung On Streets, Wanchai, as to the existence of a smoke nuisance created by the chimney of a machine-shop at No. 1, Kennedy Street.

Dr. PEARSE stated that on visiting the place he had failed to see any black smoke emitted, although the furnace was specially stoked to see if black smoke could be produced. The owner had lengthened the chimney to prevent any annoyance to his neighbours and he did not feel that he would be justified in asking the Board to serve a writ on the owner and so interfere with his business. He supposed, too, that the neighbours had a remedy at law without coming to the Sanitary Board, if they so wished.

It was agreed to take no action.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return showed that during the fortnight ended 21st July 87 houses in the Eastern District and 2,512 in the Western had been treated. Fines to the amount of \$691 were recovered for contraventions in the Western District.

During the fortnight ended 4th August 361 houses in the Eastern District were treated and in the Western 2,812 houses were dealt with and fines recovered to the amount of \$691.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"In connection with this question I should like to know if it is absolutely necessary to limewash the undersides of floors and roofs, stair-linings and the partitions of cubicles. In former years people were required to limewash the walls only. Many complain that they have never been told as to what must be done, and consequently, after the walls have been limewashed, they are told that the work has not been done properly, because the undersides of the floors, etc., have not been limewashed, this causing them considerable trouble and inconvenience."

The President minuted:—"The byelaws require the building to be cleansed and limewashed throughout by the owner twice a year. It appears that the cleansing by the owner has not hitherto been done. It would be a good plan to enforce this byelaw strictly in future."

The PRESIDENT said that Byelaw No. 5 stated that any tenement dwelling, unless specially exempted by the Board, shall be cleansed and limewashed throughout by the owner to the satisfaction of the Board twice a year. If this was strictly enforced he thought it would do a great deal to check the annual outbreaks of plague. He knew it would raise a hubbub to make it incumbent upon owners to cleanse their houses twice a year, but still the byelaw stated so definitely. Cleansing would mean washing with soft soap or other similar substance. This experiment had been tried with very good effect in one of the most insanitary parts of the town, and he thought that if the Board were to insist in future on this byelaw being complied with it would do much to materially improve the city.

Mr. HEWETT was of opinion that something more definite than simply "cleansing and limewashing" should be stated. He knew of a case where certain proprietors wished to get their property into thoroughly good order, and as far as they knew it was thoroughly washed and cleaned out. Then the place was examined by a sanitary inspector, who sent them a notice that it was not properly cleansed, and would have to be done all over again. Having a doubt on the point, the owners of the property got some one competent to judge to examine the place, and it was pronounced clean. They reported to the inspector to that effect, and asked him wherein they had failed to comply with the regulations. The reply from the inspector was that he was not bound to give any explanation; the Sanitary Board was then communicated with, and the result was the same. In view of what he had been told, Mr.

Hewett concluded, he thought a real hardship existed, and to his mind it was very necessary indeed that the Board should define exactly what "cleansing and limewashing" meant.

The PRESIDENT moved that the matter be referred to the Acting Medical Officer of Health, to be reported on at the next meeting. Mr. HEWETT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

WATER SUPPLY.

The report of the Government Analyst (Mr. F. Brown) for the month of July showed that he had found the water in all the public services to be of excellent quality.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AT KAI LUNG WAN.

There was laid on the table a minute by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon reporting the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in a cattle shed at Kai Lung Wan was at an end. 28 out of the 32 animals contracted the disease and all recovered; the disease was of a very mild type. He recommended the disinfection and limewashing of the shed.

The premises were declared free of infection.

TEMPORARY WESTERN MARKET.

A letter was laid on the table from the D.P.W. announcing the completion of the temporary market adjacent to the new Harbour Office.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Mortality statistics for as far back as the week ended 27th June having been laid on the table.

Mr. POLLOCK drew attention to the extraordinary lateness of the report.

The PRESIDENT explained that the statistics were practically prepared by two departments—the Registrar-General's and the Medical Officer of Health's, one acting as a check on the other, and he understood that the returns from some of the convents were sometimes late.

This was all the public business.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A special general meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on the 12th inst. in the Chamber Room, City Hall, to nominate a member of the Chamber to take the place in the Legislative Council of the Hon. R. Shewan, who has been granted a year's leave of absence. Mr. E. A. Hewett, chairman, presided over a large attendance.

The Secretary (Mr. A. R. Lowe) read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter dated 4th inst. from H.E. Sir Henry Blake, Governor, intimating that the Hon. R. Shewan had been granted a year's leave of absence and asking that a meeting of the Chamber be called to nominate a member of the Chamber to take his place on the Legislative Council.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. D. R. LAW, Messrs. T. P. Cochrane and J. Goosmann were appointed scrutineers.

The CHAIRMAN, having explained the conditions concerning the speaking and voting, called on the proposer of the first nomination.

Mr. D. R. LAW said—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Pollock, K.C., as the Chamber's representative in the Legislative Council during Mr. Shewan's absence. I do so with every confidence, being sure that we could not make a better selection, and I trust, gentlemen, that you will share my views and give him your support. Without for a single minute desiring to detract from the undoubted suitability in many ways of Mr. Hewett, I should just like to point out briefly in what respects Mr. Pollock has, in my opinion, many advantages to recommend him to your suffrages. His long residence here, and his intimate knowledge of all public matters, combined with the fact that he has always taken a very keen interest in everything relating to the public weal, renders him peculiarly suitable for a seat in the Legislative Council. He may not be so well acquainted with commercial details as Mr. Hewett, but I venture to suggest to you that, considering Mr. Pollock's long acquaintance with business matters brought under his observation professionally, he has a sufficiently accurate general knowledge of commercial methods to make it

worth our while to secure his services. And, when we come to consider his undoubted ability as a lawyer, coupled with his long service as Acting Attorney-General, none of us can help admitting that therein he possesses a distinct advantage over his opponent, an advantage which I beg you to consider whether it would not be wise to procure in our own interests as well as in those of the general community. You must remember, gentlemen, that in discussing the appointment of a representative we have to consider the functions of the Legislative Council. It exists principally, as you are all aware, for the making of laws, and who could be better able than Mr. Pollock, with his legally trained mind, to protect and fight fearlessly for the interests committed by us to his care? Gentlemen, I take it that you desire to secure the services of a representative who will voice your views in the Councils of this Colony. If this be so, I can confidently appeal to you to support Mr. Pollock. He is willing to come to you at critical times and ask your advice on all matters that relate to your interests, and urge them with all the power and ability that you so well know he possesses. Do not be carried away by the cry "Let us have a business man, a shipping man, to represent us." Let us choose the best man. Use your matured judgment in considering this important question, and support Mr. Pollock, the candidate who is most likely to serve your interests, and through his influence with the Government secure from time to time the legislation you consider desirable in the interests of the Colony. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer. I leave the issue of this election confidently in your hands, resting satisfied that you will exercise that sound judgment for which the business men of Hongkong are already noted. (Applause.)

Mr. N. A. SIMES seconded.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen.—We have listened with much interest to Mr. Law's eloquent speech in advocating the election of Mr. Pollock. I quite agree with what Mr. Law says with regard to Mr. Pollock's qualifications as a legal adviser, but I maintain that what we want is the representative in the Legislative Council of a commercial body is a commercial man (hear, hear and applause), a man who is practically a merchant and who is in daily and continual touch with merchants. I think we want the very best man, but with all due deference to Mr. Pollock I do not think he will be the best man. We know what Mr. Hewett can do working for the general community. He is able, he is willing, and he takes a hearty interest in his work; and I think that if we elect him to represent the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council we shall have a member fearless and able to represent us and advocate our interests. I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Hewett as our representative on the Legislative Council. (Applause.)

Mr. E. W. MITCHELL—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen.—The members of this Chamber of Commerce must congratulate themselves on having two such men as Mr. Pollock and Mr. Hewett willing to represent us on the Legislative Council. They are both able men, both energetic, and both candidates have the true interests of the Colony at heart. We are here to-day to select one of these gentlemen to represent us. I have no hesitation in saying that I shall give my vote to Mr. Hewett, because, like Mr. Lewis, I feel we ought to have a commercial man to represent a commercial body. (Hear, hear.) That is the first consideration. Mr. Hewett is not only very well versed in the general commercial questions of the Far East, but he has also a sound and practical knowledge of municipal work. There, gentlemen, you have the two combined. To my mind that is the ideal man to be on the Legislative Council. We elected him, at the last annual meeting, on the committee of this Chamber. That committee elected him their chairman. Surely that proves that we have every confidence in Mr. Hewett. Let us extend that confidence and elect him as our representative to the Legislative Council. I beg to second Mr. Lewis's motion. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN next called on other members to address the meeting. As none offered to speak, he called on the candidates.

Mr. POLLOCK, who was received with applause, said—Gentlemen.—About three days after I was first informed that there was to be a vacancy in the Legislative Council for a representative from the Chamber of Commerce owing to the approaching departure of Mr. Shewan from this Colony, I determined to put myself forward as a candidate for the post in view of the fact that I was urged to do so by influential gentlemen representing your commercial community. If it had not been for the fact that I was urged by these gentlemen to come forward to contest the seat in the Council, I certainly should not have been bold enough on my own initiative to have done so. Well, gentlemen, as I said, I determined some three days after I had heard that Mr. Shewan was about to leave the Colony, to stand for this seat, and on the very first day I was met with news of a somewhat disquieting character, because I was informed that for some weeks past—two or three weeks past, at all events—gentlemen had been canvassing for Mr. Hewett, and that it was practically hopeless for me to stand for the seat at this time, because I was told the majority of your votes had been promised to Mr. Hewett. Well, gentlemen, that did not discourage me, for when I came to review the matter I was satisfied that there were certain gentlemen amongst you who might not unnaturally have expressed themselves as willing to vote for Mr. Hewett under the impression that he was the only candidate likely to come forward, and I felt certain that when you heard another candidate was coming forward you would carefully reconsider the matter, and you would, as it is your bounden duty to do, weigh carefully the respective merits of each candidate brought before you. I felt certain that you, as gentlemen of business, would not hastily make up your minds on a matter of this importance, but that you would very anxiously go into the question of the respective capabilities of the respective candidates. Well now, gentlemen, I humbly submit to you that, having regard to the fact that your representative in the Legislative Council is required to sit there in a legislative capacity, I, as I have submitted in my manifesto, am entitled to your suffrages. I have here an "Express" which was issued to-day—I suppose it was meant to be humorous—which reads—"An ounce of practical experience is worth a ton of trained legal mind." (Laughter.) Well, gentlemen, what is the practical experience which you require from the gentleman who is to represent you in a legislative capacity upon the Council? The practical experience which you require from that gentleman is practical experience in the drafting of legislative measures. (A voice: No.) You want a representative who has knowledge of what is the intended purpose of such measures and such amendments and such alterations in the law as may be brought forward by the Government. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Surely, gentlemen, if Mr. Hewett, from his experience in municipal matters, may be said to possess an ounce of practical experience, I think I may fairly claim, owing to the fact that for nearly three years I acted as Attorney-General, to have a hundredweight of such experience. (A voice: No.) Mr. Brown says No; he has been a very energetic canvasser on behalf of Mr. Hewett, gentlemen, as you are aware. (Laughter, during which Mr. Brown exclaimed: Nothing of the sort.) I congratulate him upon his activity, but I think, gentlemen, you will be able by your votes to discount that activity. (Renewed laughter.) It must be obvious to all of you that in so far as commercial experience is required Mr. Hewett is superior to myself, but surely, gentlemen, none of you will contend that in the event of any commercial matter coming up in the Council, I should not be able to obtain such particulars and instructions from your committee as would enable me to intelligently and fully discuss in the Council such commercial matters as require to be discussed. (Applause.) I should certainly, gentlemen, upon such matters consult your committee, and the committee would give me the best and fullest of their advice, and I should make use of that advice in Council to further your interests. (Applause.) On the other hand, gentlemen, what about practical legal experience? How is it possible

that Mr. Hewett can be supplied with practical legal experience here? I submit, gentlemen, it is impossible that he could be supplied with such legal experience as would enable him, very often on the spur of the moment as has been seen, to speak on certain amendments brought forward by the Government. I sat for a period of nearly three years in the Legislative Council as you will have noticed by my manifesto, and thereby required an actual practical knowledge of the drafting of laws as well as of the procedure of the Legislative Council. I will not keep you longer in this extremely trying heat, but will leave this matter in your hands, and simply ask you, without fear, favour, or affection, to give your votes to whichever of the two candidates, Mr. Hewett and myself, you think the more worthy of your suffrages. (Applause.)

Mr. HEWETT said—Gentlemen.—We all know what it is to suffer from *un mauvais quart d'heure*, and I must confess to my experiencing something of the kind at the present moment in finding myself for the first time in opposition to my very good friend, Mr. Pollock. In coming forward, however, and in offering myself as the representative of the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council, I do so in the belief that I am qualified to act in this capacity. I would state that my commercial training commenced 26 years ago, and nearly 23 years of those have been passed in the leading business centres between here and Yokohama. I think I may claim therefore that I have a very good general knowledge of the trade of the Far East. In addition to this my ordinary business has kept me thoroughly in touch with the home trade and also with our important interests in the Straits and India. Having spent altogether some seven years in Hongkong, I have during the last two years of my residence here been enabled to pick up the threads of the various interests connected with the Colony, and I feel therefore that I am justified in offering myself as the representative of this Chamber on the Legislative Council. As Mr. Pollock has remarked, it is extremely warm, and we do not wish to stay here a minute longer than is necessary. But I will only add that if you do me the honour of electing me I shall do all in my power to further your interests as far as our relations with the Government are concerned. (Applause.) We will now proceed with the voting.

Ballotting then proceeded, and when all the cards had been handed in and the votes counted the result was announced by the CHAIRMAN as follows:—

Mr. Pollock, 63; Mr. Hewett, 54.

The announcement was greeted with loud applause, and when this had subsided,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the result of this election will be communicated to H. E. the Governor in due course. It now only remains for the meeting to pass a vote of thanks to the scrutineers. (Applause.)

Mr. POLLOCK—Gentlemen, I am much obliged to those who supported me, but I consider myself particularly fortunate in having succeeded in gaining the seat in the Legislative Council in view of the fact that I was opposed to a gentleman possessing such strong qualifications as my friend Mr. Hewett. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN stood hands with Mr. Pollock, whom he congratulated upon his election, and thereafter the meeting dispersed.

The following is the list of members who recorded votes:—Messrs. Ferd. Bornemann, P. Brewitt, Wm. Danby, L. S. Dady-Burjor, Fung Wa Chun, A. G. Gordon, D. Haskell, Ho Fook, Dr. Jordan, E. Kadoorie, G. P. Lammert, A. R. Marty, J. R. Michael, H. M. H. Nénazee, Dr. J. W. Noble, H. B. Pollock, K. C., E. C. Ray, M. S. Sassoon, G. C. Moxon, A. V. Apoor & Co., Arnold Karberg & Co., W. S. Bailey & Co., Banker & Co., Benjamin, Kelly & Potts, F. Blackhead & Co., Bradley & Co., Butterfield & Swire, Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co., Carlowitz & Co., Cawasjee Palanjee & Co., S. J. David & Co., Deacon & Hastings, Dennys & Bowley, Gilman & Co., Grossmann & Co., Hotz's Jacob & Co., Hughes & Hough, J. D. Humphreys & Son, W. G. Humphreys & Co., J. D. Hutchinson & Co., Jardine Matheson & Co., Johnson & Co., Johnson, Stokes & Master, Kruse & Co., Lai Hing Hong, Douglas, Lippin & Co.,

Lane, Crawford & Co., Lantz, Wegener & Co., P. Lemaire & Co., Linstead & Davis, W. R. Loxley & Co., Lutgens, Einstamann & Co., McEwen, Frickel & Co., McGregor Bros. & Co., Melchers & Co., Meyer & Co., Wm. Meyerink & Co., Mounsey & Brutton, E. Pabney & Co., Punshard, Lowther & Co., Radocker & Co., Reiss & Co., Alex. Ross & Co., Rozario & Co., Sander, Wisler & Co., E. D. Sassoon & Co., Shewan, Thomas & Co., Siemssen & Co., H. Skott & Co., Stewart Bros., Tata & Co., Turner & Co., Verdon & Smyth, Wendt & Co., Harry Wickling & Co., Goddard and Douglas, Barretto & Co., the Agencies Pacific Mail Steamship Co., Occidental S.S. Co. and Toyo Kisen Kaisha; Banque de l'Indo-Chine, Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Ltd., Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China, China Export, Import & Bank Co., China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., China Merchants Steam Navigation Co., China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, David Sassoon & Co., Ltd., Deutsche Asiatische Bank, Dowell & Co., Ltd., East Asiatic Trading Co., Eastern Extension, Australasia & China Telegraph Co., Edwards, Piry & Co., Ltd., Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, Hamburg Amerika Linie, Hongkong and China Gas Co., Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., Imperial Bank of China, International Banking Corporation, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, National Bank of China, Ltd., Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Peninsular & Oriental S.N. Co., Russo-Chinese Bank, Shell Transport & Trading Co., Sperry Flour Co. of San Francisco, Standard Oil Co. of New York, Watkins, Ltd., Yokohama Specie Bank, Ewens & Harston, Gibb, Livingston & Co. Total, 117.

The following members did not record their votes:—Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. C. D. Gorham, Ho Tung, H. N. Mody, A. H. Rennie, A. G. Stokes, E. H. Sharp, K.C., Ming Kee Hong, N. Mody & Co., H. Price & Co., Kenter, Brockelmann & Co., Smith, Bell & Co., British American Tobacco Co., Ltd., China Commercial S.S. Co., China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd., Chun On Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Hongkong, Canton & Macao S. Co., Ltd., Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., Osaka Shosen Kaisha, Chun On S. S. Co., Ltd., Taishing Paper Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark, Ltd. Total, 23.

Two "Expresses" were issued on Wednesday in connection with the meeting of the Chamber. One asked the members to "Vote for Pollock"; the other ran as follows:—"An ounce of practical experience is worth a ton of trained legal mind, therefore—Vote for Hewett."

THE LAST OF A CANTON PLOT.

From the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 28th ult. we take the following:—

As will be remembered a conspiracy of Triad revolutionists to blow up with gunpowder all the Chinese and Manchu officials of Canton on last China New Year Day was frustrated on y in the nick of time, through information furnished by the Hongkong Government. Seven of the conspirators, if our memory serve us rightly, were beheaded in succession after a series of trials and tortures lasting a couple of months, while a number of accessories before, as well as after, the fact, but who did not actually participate in the attempt and were therefore, according to Chinese law, worthy of lighter sentences, have been languishing in the Namhoi and Panyu district gaols of Canton up to very recently, waiting for their sentences. A Canton dispatch now states that with his characteristic energy and promptitude H.E. Viceroy Tsén shortly after his arrival at Canton and taking over of office instructed the Magistrate of Namhoi and Panyu to send up to him a list of the names of those conspirators who were still awaiting sentence, with the degree of complicity of each clearly set down. This being done H.E. promptly wrote out after each name the man's sentence with instructions

to have them carried out without delay. The result was that one man, who declared that he knew of the conspiracy but was too timid to join, was sentenced to ten years' close imprisonment; two men who declared that they did not know of the conspiracy but associated with the conspirators, were sentenced to seven years' close imprisonment; one man, a nephew of the chief conspirator, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, while five others who denied any knowledge of the conspiracy but were caught in company with the conspirators, were deported to their native towns with liberty to obtain release by giving bondsmen to guarantee their future good behaviour. Thus closes the last chapter of the China New Year conspiracy of 1903.

THE FIRE ON THE "TONKIN."

When the fire broke out on the French mail steamer *Tonkin* on the 7th inst. at Kobe, she had not many hours arrived from the south. The flames spread with great rapidity, this being due to the nature of the cargo in the fore-hold—about 2,000 tons of chlorate of potash, half consigned to Kobe and half to Yokohama. In less than twenty minutes the flames had broken out of the hold and had seized on the wood and iron work in front of the funnels—the two bridges, and the lifeboats on either side of the vessel. Fanned by a strong north-easterly breeze, the whole of this part of the ship was soon a flaming furnace, burning its way gradually along the deck.

As soon as the fire was discovered, the passengers who were on board were sent ashore, but several returned to the burning ship, anxious to secure their baggage, which was, however, well looked after by the officers. A short time after the outbreak the scene was quite awe-inspiring, the flames having gradually usurped the whole space previously enveloped in thick wreaths of smoke. Every minute increased the number of launches and sampans which arrived with passengers on business or merely spectators, and on many launches, as well as on board the vessel itself a feverish activity and excitement were the features of the scene that were most noticeable.

The harbour authorities and others from the shore gave assistance as quickly as possible. At three o'clock the smoke had almost completely given way to fire. The whole of the main deck forward of the funnels was by this time in the grip of the flames, and the fire could be seen blazing fiercely through the port-holes of the fore-castle, the length of the ship covered by the flames being from forty to fifty feet. Efforts were now made to attack the fire from forward, and for this purpose one of the French seamen climbed over the ship's rails and knocked away the porthole covers so that hose could be inserted or a stream of water projected from the launches.

By nine o'clock the whole of the forward part of the *Tonkin*, from the engine-room, was ablaze, burning furiously. The coal in the bunkers took fire at about six o'clock. There was no hope whatever of saving the forward part of the vessel, and it was expected that the fire would burn itself out, and that the after part of the ship would be saved. The vessel was beached near Mirume, and scuttled. With the destruction of the fore part of the *Tonkin* is included the whole of the effects of the seamen and several steerage passengers. As soon as the fire broke out the whole length of the fore-castle was filled with dense smoke, making it impossible for the men to recover their clothes, which several of them tried to do.

The fire was practically extinguished next day shortly after midday, after nearly twenty-four hours' continuous work of the pumps. Even then the fore-castle and peak were smouldering and throwing off a large quantity of smoke. Viewed from the shore, the *Tonkin* presented a striking and novel sight in such a position. She looked like a wreck, heeled over slightly to port. Sampans, etc., were plying betw on the ship and the shore, which was dotted with spectators, besides a crowd of Lascars, who with their effects, boxes and sailors' bags, had been put ashore as soon as possible. One or two lighters were being loaded with the Lascars' property, after which the Lascars went on board and were taken back to the ship.

Both the hull outside and the decks are

blackened by fire for a distance of about forty feet abait the bridge. The lower holds of the vessel were full of water, and merchandise—bales and boxes—stored in the lower holds were floating about. It is understood that nearly all the merchandise destined for Yokohama was lost or sea-damaged. A large quantity of the cargo in the after-holds was undamaged.

THE CHEFOO DISASTER.

In the *Chefoo Express* of the 1st inst. there is an account of the damage caused by the great rainstorm on the 26th ult. The damage in the Chinese town is roughly estimated at Tls. 2,000,000; and that on the western side is even more severe. The yamen of the sub-magistrate disappeared entirely, as well as part of the Taotai's yamen. The loss of life was estimated at 650, but 1,000 would be nearer the mark. Nothing definite had been heard from the surrounding country, but it was reported that seven villages had been swept away and over a thousand lives lost near Fresh Water River. At the meeting of the Foreign Relief Committee on the 31st, Mr. O'Brien Butler, the British Consul, announced that at present the Chinese officials found themselves quite competent to cope with the distress, and though they were very grateful to the foreign community for their consideration they considered that it would not be necessary to call upon them for funds just now. They would not hesitate to do so, however, should they require assistance later on. It was decided that the Relief Committee should still stand, and should it be found later that the system of relief instituted by the Chinese is inadequate, should call upon the general public for funds. Also it was decided that some members of the committee should take care to bring to the notice of the proper authorities any cases which might come under their notice that have been overlooked. The present relief, it appeared, is being given as follows:—Rice and congee will be distributed for one month. Each destitute gets 1,000 cash, and the Cantonese Guild with the Fushun magistrate is distributing funds; the Governor at Chinanfu is also sending assistance.

THE "PEMBROKESHIRE" IN DOCK.

About 4 o'clock last Monday afternoon the s.s. *Pembroke*, which ran ashore on the Saddles near the entrance to the Yangtze last May, and after being patched up at Shanghai was sent on the 30th ult. on her way down here to be repaired by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., arrived here safely, though delayed at Swatow by foul weather, and proceeded at once to Kowloon.

Repairing gangs are already busy on the damaged ship, which has been docked in the Hunghom establishment, and was inspected on the 11th inst. by several of the Dock Company's directors. When one looks at the steamer and notes the extraordinary damage she has suffered, one wonders how she ever escaped going to the bottom of the sea. Beginning at about the water-line, her stem is bent and twisted as though it were of tin, and for a distance of thirty feet at least the keel plates have suffered to an even more remarkable extent. In the forehold the iron bottom of the ship has been forced up into the form of a ridge, and in the hold adjoining great rents have been torn, though these are not so large as in the forehold, where the greatest damage has been done. An emergency gang was despatched to Shanghai by the local Dock Company, and they patched up the steamer for the passage down to Hongkong, which must have been an anxious one for those on board considering the state of the vessel. A wooden cofferdam or deck was built in No. 1 hold, and in No. 2 hold cement and sand were used to effect the temporary repairs which included the covering of the holes in the ship's bottom from the outside by means of heavy planks securely fastened to the plates. The work was promptly performed, and reflects great credit on those responsible for its execution.

L'Echo de Chine announces the death at Rochefort of Admiral Pottier, who was recently in command of the French squadron on this station.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

Probably the finest tree in the gardens is a specimen of *Michelia Champaca* growing in Glensay. This species is found wild in the forests of the temperate Himalayas and, according to Kurz, it attains a height of 30 ft. with a circumference of 2½ ft. Hooker on the other hand says it is a tall tree. The tree in Glensay has a height of about 130 ft. and a circumference of 7 ft. 6 in., so that its height is at least four times greater than that given by Kurz. The flowers are pale yellow in colour and about 2 inches in diameter, and they are so powerfully fragrant that, as it is said, seldom alight on them. Among the Hindoo peoples the tree is sacred to Vishnu. *Michelia* belong to the same family as the *Magnolias*.

Libocedrus macrolepis is a conifer which has only recently been introduced into English gardens from China. It was first discovered in Yunnan by the late Dr. J. Anderson and later on in Formosa by Mr. E. S. A. Bourne, who describes the timber as the most valuable in that island. The genus has a remarkably wide distribution, as other species have been found in the following parts of the world:—New Zealand, New Guinea, Chilo, and California. A plant of the species under notice is growing on a bank above the deer-pen in the new garden and is now about 3 or 4 ft. high. It was raised from seeds presented to the gardens by Messrs. J. H. Veitch and Sons, and sown in December, 1899. It resembles *Thuja orientalis*, somewhat in habit, but it is more graceful. In Yunnan it grows to be a large tree.

The rainfall so far this month has been 2.36 inches only.

POLLARD COMEDY COMPANY AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

In former years it has been our use here to look upon the advent of the theatrical season in the light of a harbinger of the ideal climatic conditions that make our Hongkong winter period so delightful. But as time goes on we find more and more are the summer months pleasantly encroached upon by our theatrical visitors, who assuredly either must be becoming bolder in their defiance of tropic heat or finding in these lands much *kudos* to attract them hither. However that may be, we whose present lot is cast in zones near to the equator are gainers in the matter. In the spring the Lilliputians stayed with us longer than we dared have hoped, and now to us falls the pleasure of welcoming to our shores another band of artistes while yet the summer heat is with us. The Pollard Company is, thus, doubly to be appreciated. They bring with them a repertory of comedies and rousing farces and their reputation has had lustre added to it by their triumphs in Manila. Then the Company is strong numerically as well as in the matter of the individual talent of its members. And, furthermore, the Theatre Royal has just been put through a process of cleaning, renovation, and decoration. The scheme of improvement is hardly completed yet, but as all the substantial part of it has been accomplished, leaving only some of the ornate effects to get a finishing touch, the audience that assembled on the 12th inst. had good opportunity to judge of the general result; and on all sides one heard expressions of admiration. It will be remembered perhaps that during Mr. Robert Brugh's last visit to Hongkong he was consulted as to the proposed alterations, and his suggestions have been largely carried out. The entire building has been fitted with electric-light, with rows of lamps round the dome and the dress circle. An exhaust-fan is to be placed in the top of the dome. The floor of the stalls has been raised six inches, so as to afford a better view of the stage, and in the dress circle the old unsightly stalls have been done away with, and the front of the circle has been improved to give all in the chairs a better view. A new iron balustrade replaces the old wooden one. With the object of improving the hearing, ornamental panelling has been placed between the pillars supporting the dome; this it is hoped will have the effect of

confining the voices to the body of the building. On the stage the bridges for operating the scenes have been changed and the old grooves which held the scenery in position and the false prosceniums have been removed. In the work of carrying out these improvements Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Hon. Secretary of the City Hall building, has taken a large share and his efforts have been warmly seconded by Mr. E. W. Mitchell, whose interest in theatrical affairs is well known.

Than *Tom, Dick and Harry*, Mr. Pollard could have selected no better piece with which to open. It is a delightful comedy, that carried everything before it when first produced, nor has familiarity dulled its edge. The comic troubles that befall the trio are as laughable as ever. There was a very large audience assembled in the Theatre when the curtain was rung up on Wednesday. The opening passages of the comedy did not appear particularly lively, but as the players warmed to their work they entered into the spirit of the piece and carried the audience with them. In the second act the height of the fun was reached and the curtain rung down amid a roar of applause and laughter; while the third was capably developed and formed a fitting climax. In the rôle of the hot-tempered old General Stanhope, Mr. Edward Nable carried off first honours, making every point that the portrayal of the character admits of and keeping the house rippling with laughter by reason of his ebullitions of temper against all in general. Mr. Wentworth Watson made a fine appearance as Tom Stanhope and Messrs. Harold Carr and E. W. Elson contributed their share to the fun of the piece in the rôles of Dick and Harry Winters. Mr. Merry Lynch's Dr. Wagner was a highly creditable bit of character study. In the part of Daisy, Miss Ada Lawrence appeared to advantage, doing excellently what was laid to her charge, while Miss Millie Ascoli, Miss Blanche Clements and Miss Eva Macdonald supported their respective parts satisfactorily. The setting of the piece was tasteful.

HONGKONG PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the local Philharmonic Society was held on the 10th inst. in the Music Room of the City Hall. Sir Wm. Goodman (vice-president) occupied the chair, and there was a large number of ladies and gentlemen present.

The CHAIRMAN said that the meeting had been called to endeavour to resuscitate the Society. Out of eight members of committee there now only remained four—Messrs. Ward, Lammett, Mirow, and Schröter. The Chairman then called on Mr. E. Mirow (acting secretary) to make a statement.

Mr. MIROW said that the Society had a credit balance at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and a splendid library of vocal and instrumental music.

Mr. GEO. GRIMBLE read the names of 33 members of an orchestral society recently formed whom it was proposed to elect members of the Philharmonic *en bloc*.

Mr. A. G. WARD proposed and Mr. E. MIROW seconded that the ladies and gentlemen whose names had been read should be elected.

Carried unanimously.

Five new members were then elected, on the motion of Mr. A. G. WARD, seconded by Mr. E. MIROW.

The committee formally resigning, Mr. F. C. BARLOW proposed and Mr. E. MIROW seconded that the following committee be elected:—Messrs. F. C. Barlow, F. H. Bell, Geo. Grimble, O. Gumprecht, Geo. P. Lammett, E. Mirow, Carl Schröter, J. Wacker, and A. G. Ward.

Carried *nem con*.

Messrs. F. C. Barlow and F. H. Bell were elected hon. secretaries of the orchestral and vocal sections respectively.

It was left to the discretion of the committee to appoint conductors.

Of the office of president it was unanimously agreed to ask H. E. Sir Henry Blake's acceptance. Sir Wm. Goodman was re-elected vice-president.

The drawing-up and revision of rules having been left to the committee, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE NEW TERRITORY IN 1902.

The following report by Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, on the New Territory for 1902, is published in the *Government Gazette*:—

LAND.

During 1902 the demarcation of the whole of the New Territory, with the exception of (1) the coastwise trips from Tai Lam Chung to Tsun Wan, and (2) Lamma Island, was completed. Branch offices for taking claims were opened at Ping Shau (April 1st to October 18th), and at Si Kung (July 7th to October 25th), on the mainland; and at Mui Wo, Pui O, Tung Chung and Tai O, in Lan Tao Island. All claims on the mainland have been filed except for the narrow strip from Tai Lam Chung to Tsun Wan. These are now being received at a branch office at Tsun Wan, which it is hoped will be closed in May. This will finish claim-taking on the mainland.

The total number of lots demarcated in 1902 was as follows:—

Mainland, 133,631
Lan Tao, 27,994

Total, ... 161,625

The total number of lots claimed was:—

Mainland, 164,971
Lan Tao, 18,289

Total, ... 183,260

The Full Court had 120 sittings during the year; while the President (Mr. Gompertz) held 129 Single Court sittings in the Land Court and heard 19 cases under the Rent Recovery Ordinance, 14 of 1902. Rent rolls were made out for survey districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and for the districts of Tung Chung and Mui Wo in Lan Tao Island.

The rent roll for the rest of the Territory is being pushed on and will be complete before the end of 1903.

An ordinance to regulate the tenure of land in the New Territory under the style of the New Territories Titles Ordinance, 1902, was passed at the close of the year, but has not been put into operation yet.

SURVEY.

The traverse survey was completed in December, the following being the areas surveyed during the year:—

Districts.	Sub-districts.
Kowloon	Tsun Wan, and part of Luk Yenik.
Un Long.	Tai Lam Chung.
Lan Tao Island,	The whole, with the exception of small portions previously surveyed near Mui Wo and Tung Chung
Lamma Island,	The whole.
Tsing I Island,	The whole.
Chik Lap Kok Island,	The whole.
Ni Ku Chau Island,	The whole.

To enable the cultivated areas in New Kowloon and several areas near Sha Tau Kok to be re-mapped on a larger scale—the scale on which the original survey was plotted having been found too small in these cases—fresh traverses had to be made; the cultivated lands south of the old boundary being also included.

One Indian sub-surveyor, with 6 Indian and 6 Chinese chain-men, was engaged upon the work, which was connected at four points with the trigonometrical survey, upon which the topographical survey is based.

The areas cadastrally surveyed during the year amounted to 11,715.81 acres, including 219,292 fields. These figures do not compare favourably with those of the preceding years when over 11,000 acres were dealt with by a considerably less staff, the reason being that the work during 1902 was confined to much more difficult ground, which consisted of the most hilly parts of the whole Territory.

The following were the areas surveyed:—

Districts.	Sub-districts.
Kowloon,	Kau Yenik, Luk Yenik, Tsun Wan.
Tung Hoi,	The whole.
Un Long,	Tai Lam Chung.

Districts.
Lan Tao Island, The whole, with the exception of small portions previously surveyed near Mui Wo and Tung Chung.

Sub-districts.
Tsi g I Island, The whole.
Chik Lap Kok Island, The whole.
Ni Ku Chau Island, The whole.
Tup Mun Island, The whole.
Pak Lap Chau Island, The whole.
Kau Sai Island, The whole.
Im Tin Tsz Island, The whole.

The staff engaged upon this portion of the work consisted, up till June, of two inspectors, 42 surveyors, 88 Indian chain-men, and about 60 Chinese coolies. In July, 1 inspector, 12 surveyors and 43 Indian chain-men were sent back to India and, after about a month's cessation, field operations were resumed with 1 inspector, 27 surveyors, 37 Indian chain-men, and about 55 Chinese coolies.

The demarcation of the areas surveyed during 1900 was completed by the 10 surveyors mentioned in last year's report, who are included in the cadastral staff enumerated above. They dealt with 13,446.84 acres, which included 97,960 fields constituting 32,824 holdings.

One surveyor, with one Indian coolie, was detailed throughout the whole year for special work in connection with the Land Court.

Five office assistants were obtained from India in the early part of the year, one having been previously appointed locally. The number of maps dealt with during the year was 296. The boundaries being compared and the holdings and field inked in and numbered as the sheets were received from the surveyors.

Two Chinese tracers were engaged in November to assist in producing copies of the maps to be for the use of the Land Court.

Sickness was somewhat prevalent among the staff, one surveyor and two Indian coolies dying during the course of the year and six Indian coolies being invalided back to India. Two surveyors were discharged on account of incompetence.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The works in progress, or completed, during 1902, were the following:

(I.) Tai Po Road.—With the exception of some minor works, confined to the last 5 miles, the whole of the work was completed, the road being available for ricksha traffic throughout its entire length. The distance from Tsimshatsui Point to Tai Po is 13 miles, the first 2 miles consisting of roads south of the old boundary, which were made before the New Territory was taken over.

(II.) Police Station, Sheung Shui.—The buildings were completed and occupied by the police in May; accommodation is provided for a sergeant, 2 European, 12 Indian and 8 Chinese constables; besides a charge-room, two cells, etc.

(III.) Police Station, Tai O.—This station, which is situated near the southern extremity of Lan Tao Island, was completed and occupied by the police in November. It contains accommodation for a sergeant, an European constable, 8 Indian and 4 Chinese constables and 4 Chinese boatmen, besides a charge-room, two cells, etc.

Seven police stations have now been built in the New Territory, 6 being on the mainland and 1 on Lan Tao Island.

(IV.) Defining Boundaries.—Two large granite obelisks, bearing suitable inscriptions, were erected on Lan Tao Island, and a third near the shore of Mui Bay, the former defining the points where the western limit of the Concession meets the north and south shores of the Island, and the latter the point where the eastern limit meets the shore of Mui Bay. The points were established by H.M.S. *Brook*.

(V.) Kowloon Waterworks.—Though being constructed principally for the supply of the population south of the old boundary of British Kowloon, these works are situated almost entirely within the New Territory. Substantial progress was made with the excavation of the main dam for the large reservoir and about 3 miles of 12-inch cast-iron main were laid. The main was brought into service in October for conveying to Mongkok and Yau-mat the supply derived from the old intakes above Cheungshawan, and several new intakes were constructed and connected up.

AFFORESTATION.

Tree Planting.—The number of trees planted amounted to 31,746, the majority of which were the ordinary pine tree. Most of these were planted along the Tai Po Road, and a few at Pingshan. Included in the total are 2,781 camphor trees planted along the Tai Po Road and 112 *Castilleana elastica* planted below the same road between the fourth and fifth mile-stones.

Tree Seeds Sown.—Pine-tree seeds to produce 46,800 trees were sown broadcast in the catchment area of the new reservoir and between the sixth and seventh mile-stones, and to produce 24,200 trees in sites to replace the failures of the previous year.

Camphor Trees.—Experiments were made in sowing camphor seeds in pots and planting the young trees out in the middle of the summer when about five months old in order to find a cheaper way of rearing this particular tree than has been practised hitherto. The seeds germinated and the trees were 6 in. in height when they were planted, some in prepared trenches and some in pits, but they have made very little progress since and do not give much promise of success. That camphor trees will grow in the New Territory when placed under suitable conditions is proved by the fine specimens at Ho Sheung Heung. The trunks of seven of these have the following dimensions in circumference at three or four feet from the ground:—20 feet 7 inches: 15 feet 9 inches: 13 feet 3 inches: 11 feet 4 inches: 11 feet: 8 feet 6 inches: 6 feet 8 inches.

Fire Barriers.—About 4 miles of old fire barriers, 15 feet wide, were cleared to protect the young trees on both sides of the Tai Po Road.

MEDICAL.

Mr. Ho Nai Hop, Chinese Medical Officer, resided at Tai Po and visited periodically the several police stations and villages in the New Territory. He treated 812 native patients more than in the previous year.

Malarial Fever.—There was a considerable diminution in the number of cases occurring, especially amongst the members of the police force. This is attributed, to a great extent, to the prophylactic administration of quinine. From the 1st May to the beginning of December each of the police, whether European, Indian or Chinese, was given three grains daily.

Cholera.—This disease was prevalent in May. Active measures were taken to check it by the issue of notices warning the Chinese against eating unripe fruit, uncooked vegetables, &c., and advising them always to boil their drinking water.

Small-pox.—This disease was epidemic at Tai Po and Shatin districts in the spring of the year, some twenty cases occurring with but one death. Prompt measures were taken by vaccinating all the civil staff, and as far as possible most of the villagers, with calf lymph, and apparently with success, as the disease did not spread to the neighbouring districts.

Vaccinations.—Free vaccination was carried on at the police stations during the winter months, and altogether during the year 336 vaccinations were performed as compared with 78 in 1901.

Leprosy.—The leper asylum was visited regularly once a week by Mr. Ho. The total number of inmates was 27.

Plague.—No cases were reported as having occurred during the year.

Staff.—Mr. Ho resigned at the end of the year and was succeeded by Mr. Lai Lai, a licentiate of the Hongkong College of Medicine or Chinese.

EDUCATION.

The committee that reported on education in the Colony generally made certain recommendations with regard to the New Territory which have not yet been given effect to.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT.

The station at the island of Cheungchau was opened in September, the one at Tai O, in the island of Lan Tao, in October, 1899; that at Tai Po, in Mui Bay, on board the police steam launch, in January, 1900; that in Deep Bay on board the police steam launch, in November, 1901; and that at Saikung in April, 1902.

From 1st January to 31st December, 1902, 8,359 licences, clearances, permits, &c., were issued at Cheungchau; 3,390 at Tai O; 3,253 at Tai Po; 3,010 at Deep Bay; and 3,108 at Saikung.

The revenue collected by the Harbour Department from the New Territory during 1902 was \$13,896.05.

POLICE.

I attach a table showing the distribution of police in the New Territory in 1902.

There were 14 Europeans, 98 Indians and 41 Chinese, with 10 boatmen, stationed in the New Territory on land, and 6 Europeans, 35 Chinese doing duty in launches.

There was a very satisfactory decrease in serious crime as compared with 1901, the figures for the last four years being as follows:—

	1899	1900	1901	1902
Gang robberies	25	20	23	11
Boat and junk robberies	5	5	8	3
Highway and street robberies	12	7	4	3
Totals	42	32	35	17

Police were employed, in addition to their ordinary police duties, in collecting Crown rent, and the water police have licensed boats and received the fees on behalf of the Harbour Master.

The new stations at Sheung Shui and Tai O were occupied on the 19th May and 3rd November respectively.

The Chinese force stationed on the border has continued active, and it is to a great extent due to its presence that there have been fewer incursions of robbers from over the northern boundary. Increasing appreciation of the presence of the police is shown in the readiness with which reports of all sorts are made to them, although at times clan combinations and fear of revenge still make it difficult to elicit evidence.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Returns of the number of cases brought before the Magistrates are appended. They show a satisfactory decrease in crime and especially in crime of a serious nature.

Mr. Hallifax, the District Magistrate in the New Territories, reports that "though the number of cases brought before the magistrates shows a reduction, there is an ever increasing amount of work in the way of arbitration of disputes, nearly all of them trifling: questions of money, marriage and *fung shui* are the most common. By far the greater number of these cases are fairly easily settled, as soon as it is possible to get down to the bed rock of facts: an outside decision is all that is asked for without any reference to the sentimental points raised on both sides. *Fung shui* does at times give trouble: but in no case yet has either party been able even after a week or fortnight to give an idea of their case clear enough for practical purposes."

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

I attach a statement of revenue and expenditure for the year 1902.

The collection of Crown rent has been rendered very difficult owing to the want of a rent-roll based on demarcation. Demarcation is now practically completed and the rent-roll based on it will be ready in the early autumn, when collection of the rent with arrears should be comparatively easy if undertaken with vigour.

Transfers of holdings and parts of holdings are frequent and as the machinery for recording such transfers was not ready, the collection of rent has suffered. The New Territories Titles Ordinance now provides for this want. Changes in the trustees of common funds are also a constant source of trouble.

GENERAL.

The people seem to be more prosperous than they were in a small way; a number of new houses are going up of a better class than the existing ones; there are a few new shops; a few new tea-houses show increased traffic, especially on the cattle routes; the cultivation of pine-apples is noticeably extending; and in spite of the fact that paddy is now at \$3.90 a picul, there is no real distress as far as can be seen. But with the exception of the Un Loong Powder Factory, and a few establishments in Tsinwan, there is no new undertaking of any size, unless the increased activity of the brick-kilns can be so designated.

The introduction of the new Conant peso in Manila has occasioned a furor in commercial circles on account of the difficulties experienced in teaching its value, says a Philippines journal.

a full and true disclosure as aforesaid, as provided by Section 4 of the before-mentioned Ordinance; and I do farther require you to report to me the evidence and your opinion thereon; and I hereby charge all persons in the Public Service to assist you herein.

507 new and/or rebuilt tenements,	
rateable value,	\$532,230
36 tenements, rateable value, \$95,395	
Replacing assessments, amount	
ing to,	79,835

507	new and/or rebuilt tenements,	
	rateable value,	\$552,230
36	tenements, rateable value, \$95,395	
Replacing assessments, amount		
ing to,	79,835	
		15,420

144 Assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down, or being in other respects not rateable,	94,155
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Increase in City of Victoria, ... \$503,193

401 new and/or rebuilt tenements, rateable value,	\$ 154,329
24 tenements, rateable value, \$26379	
Replacing assessment amounting to,	14,340

		— — —	12,03
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66	assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down, or being in other respects not rateable.	166,35
		27,29

Increase in the rest of the Colony, \$139,06
The total number of tenements affected by
interim valuations being 1,178.

Vacant Tenements.—The number of reported vacant tenements in the City of Victoria inspected under section 35 of the Rating Ordinance averaged about 165 monthly, again 176 last year.

New Kowloon.—A valuation has been made of Kowloon City and its suburbs and Shamshuipo. The rateable value of Kowloon City is \$2,250 and Shamshuipo \$18,170.

Staff. - Mr. David Wood acted for me from 14th May to 30th September, 1902, during my absence from the Colony.

The military guard of the United States Legation at Peking is to be reinforced. Lieutenant Charles L. Woodhouse and twenty-three men were to sail by the *Bohilla Maru* on Saturday last en route to Peking, and at Hong Kong transfer ship to the *Nanshan* for Taku. From Tongshan they will proceed by rail to Peking, where they will become members of B company, Ninth Infantry, which has been stationed there ever since the Legations were relieved from their last great peril.

11. The Superintendent may close the Gardens or any portion thereof and grant admission thereto by ticket or otherwise on such

Now, therefore I, Sir Henry Arthur Blakeney, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the aforesaid Colony and its Dependencies and Vice-Admiral of the same, do hereby under the powers vested in me by Ordinance 27 of 1886, entitled the Commissioners Powers Ordinance, 1886, appoint you the Honourable Francis Henry May, C.M.G., the Honourable Alexander Macdonald Thomson, Ernest Hamilton Sharp, Esq., K.C., and Victor Hobart Deacon, Esq., to be a Commission for the purpose of instituting, making, and conducting such enquiry: and I do hereby appoint the said Francis Henry May to be Chairman and Stewart Buckle Carne Ross, Esq., to be Secretary to the Commission;

And I do further hereby order and direct that the said Commission shall, for the purpose of making the said enquiry, have all such powers as are vested in the Supreme Court of the Colony or in any Judge thereof on the occasion of any suit or action in respect of the following matters, viz.:—

(a.) The enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise, as the Commissioners or any of them may think fit.

(b.) The compelling the production of documents.

(c) The punishing persons guilty of contempt

And I do hereby further direct that every examination of witnesses shall be held in private and I do further direct that any person examined as a witness in the enquiry aforesaid who in the opinion of the Commissioners, makes a full and true disclosure touching all the matters in respect of which he is examined shall receive a certificate under the hand of the Chairman or presiding Member of the Commission countersigned by the Secretary, stating that the witness has upon his examination made

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 11th August.

THE FATE OF A MAGISTRATE.

There is no news of importance from Kwangsi, but it is reported that the notorious magistrate Chun has not been beheaded. The Viceroy released him, but ordered him to take command of a small body of troops and attack the rebels in their strongholds. This means that almost certain death awaits him. A story is told of him which is not without a grim humour. A certain farmer had a son whose conduct had been outrageous, and who had got beyond his father's control. The latter thought a magisterial lecture might do him good, and sent him to Chun with the request that he should be pointed out the error of his ways. His dismay may be imagined when he heard that his son had been promptly beheaded. On his remonstrating, the same fate was meted out to him. This tale must be taken *cum grano salis*, but it shows the general impression which exists as to the conduct of the worthy magistrate of Kwai Yun, who by the bye, has been described to me by a friend who stayed with him as a most meek-and-mild little man.

RICE.

The rice crop in Kwangsi is very good, and the farmers are rejoicing, but there is a great scarcity of money, and the sufferers will find difficulty in buying food, however abundant the crop may be, so that the charity societies will have to continue their distributions for some little time.

THE BEGGARS' CHANCE.

To-day is the festival of the Goddess of Mercy in Canton, and thousands of women are flocking to the hill near the North Gate to pray at her temple. It is a gala day for the beggars who infest the place in great numbers. The newly-organised police are in evidence in that quarter, and a more rascally-looking set it would be hard to find. It is said that when they doff their uniforms they come out in their true character as thieves.

POLICE AND ROBBERS.

A case illustrating the collusion between robbers and police has just come to light. In a certain street in the Western suburbs a burglary was committed a few weeks ago, and the head watchman of the ward was arrested on the accusation of the gentleman at whose house the robbery was committed. After a short spell of prison life the watchman sent a number of pawn-tickets to the gentleman, with the request that he would redeem the goods and then obtain his release. Accordingly the magistrate was asked to release the prisoner, but the gentry of the district petitioned against this, pointing out that the return of the tickets was a confession of guilt, and that they did not desire a criminal as their watchman. The man is still in prison; but though justice seems to have been done in this case, there must be many other cases in which thieves and watchmen do a good business by combining. It is to be hoped that H.E. Shum on his return will enquire into this scandalous state of affairs.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 8th August.

LOCAL RUMOURS.

It is said that the army of the rebels in Kwangsi is well trained and well drilled after foreign fashion, and that their ammunition is of modern make. The officers are reformers belonging to the *Pao Hwang Hwui* (a society for the protection of the Imperial Government against vicious mandarins) and have had their education in America. This *Pao Hwang Hwui* has branches in America, Australia, Singapore, Hongkong, and Macao, and Kang Yu-wei is its head. It supplies the rebels with money and men to carry on the war. The rebels are never known to have done any mischief to foreigners, and it is said that once, when they had me at missionary, instead of doing him any harm,

they escorted him to the frontier safely. Most of the troops sent from Canton to fight them have surrendered to them. It is reported that there are from two to three hundred strange looking men of suspicious character coming from Waichow to Canton daily by passenger-boats, so the officials are always on the look out, and either the prefect of Kwangchowfu or his son is out on patrol every night in the city and with him about two hundred soldiers. The rebel chief Li Lap has sent a letter to the Viceroy Shun Chen Hün, challenging him to fight to the death. His Excellency is waiting for reinforcements from Hubei and Hupeh, and quarters in the city are being built for their accommodation. The rebels have caught Cheung Yung-yum, the magistrate of the Wai-yün district, and have hung him in a cage similar to those that were invented by Li Hung-chang. The reason for this is that he is alleged to have hung many innocent persons. Native papers say that Admiral Fung Tsz Tsai has gone to Kwangsi to fight the rebels, but from reliable sources I have learnt that he is in Yum-chow with Viceroy Shun.

Owing to the Imperial Government having spent much money on fighting the rebels, and the Treasury being at a low ebb, His Excellency the Viceroy intends to abolish all the other vexatious taxation, and to impose taxes on ships and small boats—the Board of Reorganisation having received orders to that effect—and also on barbers.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

GOVERNOR V. VICEROY.

It is reported that Wang Chi-chan, late Governor of Kwangsi who has been dismissed from office by the Throne after being reported by H.E. Shun on account of his inability to suppress the rebellion and his corrupt government during the term of his office, has bribed some censors to memorialise the Throne against the action of the great Viceroy and the "unfair" charges brought against him. Governor Wang is still in Kwangsi but will go to Peking in a few days, as soon as he has handed over the seals to the Acting Governor, Ling Tai-shung, Provincial Treasurer of Kwangtung, who has arrived at Wuchow.

THE NEW RAILWAY.

The Canton and Hankow Railway has been built from Fatsan as far as to Im Po, in the Namhoi district. A good number of workmen have been employed daily, but owing to the serious news from Kwangsi, instructions were received from the authorities a few days ago to suspend work at present till order has been restored.

DEALING WITH CORRUPTION.

H.E. Shun Chan-hun is very strict in controlling his subordinate officers, military and civil, seventy-one of whom, belonging to the province of Kwangtung, have been either dismissed from office or condemned to suffer the extreme penalty of the law. It is said an equally large number of corrupt officials has also been severely dealt with in Kwangsi.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LEADING OR FOLLOWING?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 11th August.

SIR,—I notice that the Attorney-General is moving in the Legislative Council the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to set apart a holiday to be known as Victoria Day," etc., informed the Council that Hongkong in this matter is "following the example of, if not setting the example to, the rest of the Empire." One can imagine the Attorney-General sitting down and defying contradiction of the statement!

But, perhaps, some of your readers may be interested to know exactly what Hongkong's position is in the matter.

May 24th is set apart as a public holiday under the designation of "Victoria Day" in the Dominion of Canada, Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, South Australia, Windward Islands, Leeward Islands, Barbadoes and other parts of the Empire, so that Hongkong is following rather than setting the example.—Yours, etc.,

IMPERIALIST.

NON-EFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th August.

SIR,—May I state my opinion in your paper that every Volunteer, whether Britisher or naturalised Britisher, must fully endorse Major Chapman's action in the matter re "Non-efficient Volunteers," and must consider that the evidence of the defence places an aspersion on the integrity of an officer and a gentleman to wit, the commandant, and should be thoroughly cleared up.

It is extremely hard for those of us who strive to become soldiers of ability and not only "an useless item," to turn up night after night at Headquarters and find two, three, or an insufficient number to form an effective parade; and if attending the bar or billiard-room of the Hongkong Hotel constitutes "pressure of business," then the victims of non-efficiency should have our greatest sympathy. To repeat the G.O.C.'s idea—51 good men are better than 200 "indifferents," and the Corps seems to consist of the latter just now. Only fancy 79 at a church parade in fine weather; "as you were" I should say 29, because I counted 10 who through "pressure of business" or pressure of something, were in the church as civilians.

"Officers Non-commissioned officers and men of the Hongkong Volunteer Artillery," to use some of the words of the anthem which was sung that morning, in a moral sense—It is high time to awake if we are to be members of a corps which can deservedly have for its motto "*Nulli Secundus in Oriente*." Thanking you for the insertion—Yours, etc.,

ONE OF THE GUNNERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th August.

SIR,—I read with pleasure the remarks made by "One of the Gunners" in your issue of this morning. I join in his lamentation over the badly-attended drills, but volunteering is on all fours with most things undertaken in this Colony, only half done and badly done at that. It is evidently too much to expect from the young man of Hongkong that he should give up his bathing even one afternoon in the week in summer or one game of football in the winter, in order to put in a drill. There is too much looking back after the hand has been put to the plough. It would be far better for men not to join the force at all if they have no intention of putting in their drills. For those who are keen and turn up regularly drills are rendered, by paucity of numbers, both uninteresting and uninstructional. No progress is made and nothing new attempted, because of the erratic attendance of men who know nothing of their work, and to whom, when they do come, everything has to be explained afresh. The grumbling that one hears at almost every parade would be a thing of the past if the grumblers themselves turned up regularly and helped to swell the numbers. Drills would have some interest if there were men enough to work four guns, instead of too few to fool with one.

Before I close I should like to know the reason for the number of resignations lately? It is that artillery drill does not "go down," or is it sheer laziness? I am afraid the latter. At any rate it is a sorry spectacle to see the once swagger "A" Company reduced to 25 men, including N.C.O.'s. It is certainly more than time to "wake up," but such an awakening must come from without, as it never will from within. Let the fresh blood in the Colony enlist and show the present crowd of "slackers" how to work.—Yours, etc.,

VOLUNTEER.

THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th August.

SIR,—I cordially endorse all that you say in your leading article this morning with regard to the improvements in the management of the Botanic Gardens. I suppose, however, that the regulations about putting feet upon the seats in the Gardens had not come into force on Saturday last, as on that afternoon I saw two coolies with their bare feet so placed, one of them indus-

triously scraping his. No policeman was then near.

I have one suggestion to offer with regard to the closing of the Gardens to general admission. It is that on such days as this is done (those presenting cards, tickets, etc., should be allowed to enter by the top gate, instead of having to go round as at present. There are a number of people who coming down the Peak would prefer to walk through the Gardens, but do not want to walk round to one out-of-the-way gate.—Yours, etc.,

GARDENER.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 8th August.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE)

CHIU HEOK LAM (APPELLANT) AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (RESPONDENT).

His Lordship said.—In this case, the Attorney-General, the respondent, appears in person in support of his motion, and no one appears for the appellant, who, yesterday, gave notice that he withdrew his appeal. By section 16 of the New Territories Land Court Ordinance, No. 18 of 1900, a claimant dissatisfied with a decision of the Court, where the value of the claim is over \$5,000, may, within 14 days from the date of such decision, apply to the Chief Justice for leave to appeal to the Full Court. In this case, notice of motion headed Chiu Heok Lam, appellant, and the Attorney-General, respondent, was given and pled on 7th August, 1901 (the last day for moving for leave), that "the Court" would be moved that day by Mr. Francis, K.C., for such leave to appeal from the Land Court's decision. The notice should have said that the "Chief Justice" would be moved but, by that as it may, the notice would have been better filed sooner, as when not filed till the last day it is possible the Chief Justice may be occupied in other cases. It must be borne in mind that the actual motion must be made within the fourteen days, and it is not enough that a motion paper be filed within that time. However, in this case the motion was made or mentioned in Court on 7th August, 1901, and was adjourned *sine die* by the then Acting Chief Justice. Considering that the Legislature has fixed a limit of fourteen days for moving, I do not for one moment suppose that the learned judge in adjourning the hearing of the motion *sine die* intended, or that the appellant thought he intended, that the motion might be brought on again a year or two later. It was, in the circumstances, the duty of the applicant and his solicitor to apply within a reasonable time for the Court to fix a day for the further hearing. With an appeal hanging over the decision of the Land Court, the title of the land must remain in an unsatisfactory state, and this the appellant must have known full well. Nothing having been done for nearly two years to again bring on the motion for leave to appeal, the Crown Solicitor wrote to the appellant on 26th June, 1903, saying: "As the Government desires that the title to the land may be cleared up, I am directed to give you notice that unless you either proceed with the appeal or abandon it within one month from date, application will be made to the Court to strike out the appeal." This was perfectly reasonable, but, instead of abandoning the appeal, the appellant insisted till 25th July, the day before the month had expired, and then, through his solicitor, writes asking for two months' further time. Naturally, the Crown Solicitor, acting for the Attorney-General, the respondent mentioned in the appellant's original motion paper, declines, and adds: "I propose to take steps to bring the matter before the Court as soon as possible." Accordingly, on 1st August, 1903, the Crown Solicitor, having obtained leave to serve notice of motion for to-day (8th August) filed and served his notice of motion that the Court would be moved that the application for leave to appeal filed on 7th August, 1901, might be dismissed for want of prosecution. Again, waiting till the last day, the applicant's solicitor writes, on 7th August, 1903, that on behalf of the appellant they beg leave to withdraw the appeal.

The Attorney-General appears here to-day, in pursuance of the notice of motion, to explain the facts to the Court and to ask the Court to deal with the question of costs. It is unnecessary to formally dismiss an application which has been withdrawn, but I must deal with the costs. In my opinion, the appellant has not dealt properly with the Court or the respondent. He had no right, after waiting nearly two years, to make up his mind whether he would or not proceed with his motion for leave to appeal, thus taking undue advantage of the adjournment *sine die*, to have expected a further indulgence of two months. It was right, therefore, for the respondent to bring the matter before me, for the Court has inherent jurisdiction to prevent the abuse of its process, and unless the Attorney-General had attended to explain the position of the matter the Court would not have been able to deal with it. I therefore allow the cost of this motion, including the appearance of the Attorney-General (the respondent) and direct that they be paid by the appellant, Chin Heok Lam.

Monday, 10th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

A case was called in which the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co., Ltd., sued the Attorney-General for damages in reference to the erection of a matshed contiguous to the Company's wharf on the Praya. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K. C. (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs, and on the other side the Hon. Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley, appeared (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor).

The plaintiffs in their statement of claim set out:—(1) The plaintiffs are shipowners carrying on business in this colony and other places, and having their registered office at No. 18, Queen's Road Central, Victoria, in this Colony. (2) Since about the year 1875 the plaintiffs have been and they now are the lessees from one Choy A. Chan of a wharf in front of the property registered in the land office of this Colony as Marine Lot No. 22, and also of the sole right to erect wharves in front of the said property under two successive leases dated respectively the 6th December, 1875, and the 1st May, 1884. The second (where to the plaintiffs crave leave to refer) of the said leases was for a period of 21 years from 31st December, 1885, and is still in force. (3) In or about the year 1900 the Government having reclaimed from the sea land contiguous to the said property it became necessary to remove the said wharf, and the plaintiffs under the terms of the said lease dated the 1st May, 1884, erected a new wharf in front of the said reclamation. (4) By an indenture of Crown lease (where to also the plaintiffs crave leave to refer) dated the 1st October, 1901, the right of erecting and maintaining a wharf in position of the said new wharf was demised to the plaintiffs. The said Crown lease was for a period of 28 years from the 1st January, 1900, and is still in force. Prior to the execution of the said Crown lease the plaintiffs in or about the month of December, 1899, entered into an agreement therefore with the Government and the said agreement continued in force till the execution of the said Crown lease. (5) In or about the month of October, 1901, and subsequently to the commencement of the said Crown lease and without notice to or permission from the plaintiff, the Government erected a matshed over the sea against the eastern side of the said new wharf. (6) The said matshed has since been used by the opium farmer for the purpose of indiscriminately searching passengers arriving from Canton and Macao by the plaintiffs' vessels, and on the 23rd January, 1902, the plaintiffs received a letter from the Government informing them that the said matshed had been erected for the purpose of the opium farmer's search of said passengers. (7) The said matshed prevents the access of vessels to part of the said new wharf, is a serious obstruction to the plaintiffs' use thereof, endangers their property, and is generally injurious

to them. The erection of the said matshed is also a breach by the Government of the said agreement and Crown lease. Furthermore the plaintiffs submit that the said indiscriminate searching is illegal and that being offensive to the said passengers it has very detrimentally affected the plaintiffs' business. (8) The plaintiffs have repeatedly requested the Government to remove the said matshed, but the Government has declined so to do. (9) After the commencement of these proceedings the Government without notice to the plaintiffs removed the said matshed which was therefore in actual contact with the said new wharf, and which had been injured in a typhoon, and erected a similar matshed (hereinafter called the substituted) matshed in a position about five feet away from the said new wharf. The substituted matshed has since been used for the purpose of the opium search as aforesaid. The substituted matshed prevents the access of vessels to part of the said new wharf and is in fact a serious obstruction to the plaintiffs' use thereof and is generally injurious to the plaintiffs and contrary to their rights as was the said former matshed. The plaintiffs claim:—(1) A declaration by this honourable Court that the erection and maintenance of the said matshed is a breach by the Government of the said agreement and Crown lease, and that the erection and maintenance of the substituted matshed is a breach by the Government of the said Crown lease. (2) An injunction to restrain the Government from continuing the said breach of the said Crown Lease and from obstructing the plaintiffs' use of their wharf as aforesaid and from continuing the said injuries to the plaintiffs. (3) Damages for the said breach and obstruction and injuries. (4) Their costs of this action. (5) Such other relief as to this honourable Court shall seem fit.

In their statement of defence the defendant admitted paragraphs 1, 6, and 8 of the amended statement of claim, and admitted the making and execution of the two successive leases in paragraph 2, but denied the validity of the bases to vest in the plaintiff the wharf therein referred to or to vest in them the sole right to erect wharves in front of Marine Lot 22 or of any part of such lot, for the term of year in the leases specified or for any term whatever. The defendant stated that the wharf in paragraph 2 of the amended statement of claim was erected on Crown land and was erected and maintained with the leave and licence of the Government of Hongkong and could not lawfully have been erected or maintained without such leave or licence and was not vested in the said Choy A. Chan or in the plaintiffs or in any other person for any term whatever. The defendant denied that Choy A. Chan at the time of the granting of the two successive leases had a right of access to the sea opposite Marine Lot 22. With reference to paragraph 3 of the statement of claim the defendant admitted that in the year 1900 the Government of Hongkong having reclaimed land from the sea contiguous to Marine Lot 22 it became necessary to remove the wharf mentioned in paragraph 2 and that a new wharf was subsequently erected by the plaintiffs in front of the reclamation; but the defendant denied that such new wharf was erected by the plaintiffs under the terms of the lease of 1st May, 1884, and stated it was erected and now stands on the Crown land and was so erected by the plaintiffs with the leave and licence of the Government of Hongkong, and was until the granting of the Crown lease maintained with such leave and licence and could not lawfully, until the granting of the lease, have been erected or maintained without such leave or licence. The defendant admitted the making of the indenture of Crown lease in paragraph 4 but craved leave to refer to it for the terms thereof. The defendant denied that plaintiffs entered into any agreement with the Government whether as alleged in the latter part of paragraph 4 of the statement of claim and referred to in paragraph 7, or otherwise. With reference to paragraph 5, defendant denied that the matshed referred to was erected subsequent to the granting of the Crown lease and stated that it was erected and in use at the time the lease was granted. Defendant admitted the erection in July, 1902, of a matshed in substitution of the original matshed which was destroyed by a typhoon in July, 1902, as alleged in para-

graph 9, and also admitted the use of the matshed as therein alleged. In further answer to the allegation contained in paragraph 7 of the claim the defendant denied that either the original or substituted matshed mentioned prevented or prevents the access of vessels to the new wharf; denied that either of such matsheds was or is in any degree obstructive to plaintiffs' use of such wharf, and denied that either of such matsheds endangered or endangers their property or was or is in any way injurious to them. The defendant denied that there had been any breach by the Government of the Crown lease, dated 1st October, 1901, and stated that the searching of passengers complained of by the plaintiffs was authorised by law and was in accordance with the provisions of section 29 of an Ordinance of the Legislative Council of this Colony entitled The Prepared Opium Ordinance 1891. For a further defence to the plaintiffs' claim the defendant stated that the same was bad in law on the ground that the acts, facts, matters and things therein alleged did not disclose any cause of action on the part of the plaintiffs against the defendant.

The Attorney-General addressed his Lordship on the question of law—Assuming that the acts, facts, things and matters alleged in the statement of claim are proved, do they constitute a cause of action by the plaintiffs against the defendant?

The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 12th August.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

HANG FUNG KUNG SZE v. TANG KOW.

The hearing was continued in this action in which plaintiff had sued Tang Kow for the recovery of \$339.24, being principal and interest due on a promissory note, and judgment entered for the plaintiff but execution stayed and leave given to the defendant to bring in a counter-claim. Defendant then claimed \$6,089.30 and \$137 money paid, but when his counter-claim came on for hearing an adjournment was made to allow amendments to be made in the counter-claim and the defence. The case arose out of the charter by the defendant from the plaintiffs of the lorch *Shun Wi Tung* to go to Mindoro in the Philippine Islands and bring back a cargo of damaged goods ex the wrecked steamer *Fatani Maru*, on which voyage the lorch was wrecked and her salvage gear lost.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors), appeared for defendant Tang Kow, and the plaintiffs were represented by Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. John Hays of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors).

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ACTION AGAINST THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

His Lordship heard further arguments on the issue of law in the case of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co., Ltd., against the Attorney-General.

The Osaka branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, has obtained a contract from the Osaka Military Arsenal authorities for the transport of heavy guns and accessories for the forts at Keelung and the Pescadores. The guns have been shipped by the *Niigata Maru*.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* has a Berlin telegram of the 25th ult. which says:—The Silver Committee assembled here has passed a resolution in regard to an unity of the Chinese coin. It is therein stated that it would be desirable to make silver coins legal tender in China and necessary that the exchange between silver and gold should be fixed. The American and Mexican committees are much satisfied with the reception which they have had in Berlin.

A NON-EFFICIENT VOLUNTEER

At the Police Court on the 11th inst., before Mr. J. H. Kemp (Acting Police Magistrate), Aaron Ellis, a gunner in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, was summoned by Major Chapman, Acting Commandant of the Corps, to show cause why he should not make good to the Corps a loss of \$25 which it had sustained through his failure to obtain an efficiency certificate for the drill season 1902-3. Mr. H. Hursthouse, solicitor (Messrs. Denny & Bowley), appeared for the complainant; the defendant was unrepresented.

Mr. Hursthouse explained to his Worship that the prosecution was not a criminal one; its object was simply to recover the amount of the Government grant which the Volunteer Corps had lost through the non-efficiency of the defendant during the past drill season.

Major Chapman, Acting Commandant of the Corps, was called. He said the defendant was a member of the Corps at the present time. He had not obtained a certificate of efficiency for the drill season 1902-3, and in consequence of his failure to obtain such certificate the Corps had suffered loss to the extent of \$25. That sum represented a grant paid by Government for each efficient Volunteer, and the defendant's name was amongst those on account of whose inefficiency the grant had not been paid. Witness wrote to the defendant on 17th July last, after having been visited by the defendant in person, and received in reply the letter put in as an exhibit, which stated that the defendant, near the close of the drill season, had notified his intention to resign on account of his inability, through pressure of work, to complete the required number of drills. The letter also stated that Major Pritchard, Commandant of the Corps, to whom the defendant's application for permission to resign was made, asked the defendant to stay on until the general inspection, in the event of his attending which his shortage in drills would be made all right. The defendant attended the general inspection, and subsequently was asked to explain why he had not completed the stipulated number of drills. No reply was received to that communication, nor to another which followed, and eventually a board of officers was constituted to enquire into cases of non-efficiency, included amongst which was that of the defendant. Continuing, Major Chapman deposed that a non-efficient's resignation would not be accepted just before the close of the drill season excepting on very good grounds. Volunteers could always ascertain the number of drills they had put in by consulting the tables exhibited at Headquarters every month.

Sergeant-Major Power was the next witness. He said he had the custody of the various books and records of the Volunteer Corps, and produced forms of enrolment, including that signed by the defendant, who thus bound himself over to make good whatever loss the Corps suffered by reason of his non-efficiency. The defendant had six drills in, and the total number he was required to put in was 30. On 15th April last the defendant was asked to pay a non-efficient's fine, and a subsequent communication was sent on 28th May; no reply was received to either of them.

This was all the evidence for the prosecution, and the defendant made a statement to the effect that about a month before the drill season closed he called on Major Pritchard to explain why he had not been able to put in his drills and to ask permission to resign. Major Pritchard told him that he did not want any resignations before the general inspection took place, and said that if the defendant attended that parade it would be all right. "That was my only reason," defendant concluded, "for not paying the fine; Major Pritchard gave me to understand that it would be all right. Major Pritchard is not in the Colony, and won't be back for ten days yet."

His Worship—Do you want an adjournment?

Defendant—Yes, I should like one until Major Pritchard returns.

His Worship—I don't see that all this is quite an answer to the charge. If you are liable to pay a fine for not putting in a certain number of drills, I don't see that Major Pritchard has power to give you the assurance that you say he gave.

Defendant—If Major Pritchard had not as-

sured me, I should have made an endeavour to put in my drills.

His Worship—Do you object to an adjournment, Mr. Hursthouse?

Mr. Hursthouse—I object to any adjournment, your Worship, particularly if the defendant does not want to go into the witness-box and swear to what he has said. I can't cross-examine unless he does.

Defendant—You want me to swear to what I have said? Oh, I'll do that, certainly.

Defendant then went into the witness-box and was sworn in the Jewish fashion, hat on head. He said he was an assistant with Houghton & Co., tailors and cutters. He met Major Pritchard fully a month before the drill season closed, and asked him about his resignation, which he had tendered a week before on account of his inability to put in his drills by reason of pressure of work, and as, further, he had not a sufficient number of drills in to entitle him to an efficiency certificate. Major Pritchard said he did not want to accept the resignation before the general parade, and that if the defendant attended that parade it would be all right. The defendant therefore attended the parade in question.

His Worship—Why were you not able to put in your drills?—I had too much work on hand.

Cross-examined—Defendant would swear that he did not receive any letter from Major Pritchard on or about 15th April or 28th May; about that time he received letters from Major Chapman. When he did eventually hear from Major Pritchard he called on him and explained matters. It was not the case that Major Pritchard told the defendant he would not be allowed to resign before the general inspection. Expresses and circulars from the Volunteer Corps came very irregularly, and sometimes, defendant said, he did not receive them at all.

Mr. Hursthouse having addressed the Court in support of the claim,

His Worship ordered the defendant to pay to the Volunteer Corps the sum of \$25 within seven days from the date of the order, failing which payment a distress warrant would be issued and distraint made.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The following is the report of the board of directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd., to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings, on Monday, the 24th August, at noon:—

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you their report with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 30th June, 1903. The net profit for the six months, after paying interest due and all charges, amounts to \$476,888.29 to which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account 196,256.84

\$673,145.13 and from this have to be deducted—
Directors' fees ... \$10,000.00
Auditors' fees ... 750.00

10,750.00

leaving available for appropriation...\$662,395.13

The directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 12 per cent. or \$300,000 be paid to shareholders, that \$36,579.39 be written from the value of Kowloon Docks, \$2,772.04 from the Cosmopolitan Dock, that a marine insurance account to cover ordinary harbour risks on tugs, launches, &c., be opened by placing \$8,750 to its credit, and that the balance \$314,293.70 be carried to the new account.

The removal of the machines from the old to the new engine-works at Kowloon, and their redistribution for the electric drive, has proceeded with rapidity and but little interruption of business. The old building is now cleared and being prepared and renovated as a central electric power station.

The new boilers for this station are made, the engines, dynamos, electric motors, and condensing plant ordered, and are all deliverable before the end of this half-year. The old brass shop, which formed an annexe of the old building, has been removed to a spacious upper floor

in the new roof, the annexe pulled down giving a wider frontage to the main road.

The dredger Canton River has fulfilled two short terms of charter, and also removed several thousand tons from the foreshore of Kowloon Dockyard.

The widening at the bottom of the entrance of the inner half of the Cosmopolitan Dock is nearly completed.

At Aberdeen, the sea wall, having subsided, has been practically rebuilt.

C. P. CHATER, Chairman.

Hongkong, 10th August, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

3rd June, 1903. ASSETS.
Aberdeen.
To value of Aberdeen Docks, as per last statement \$ c.
100,000.00

Kowloon.
To value of Kowloon Docks, as per last statement 1,936,405.54
Less amount since written off 75,000.00

\$1,861,405.54

To amount paid on account of removal of hill on the new extension, Kowloon marine lot No. 27 1,915.65

To hire of dredger Canton River dredging foreshore near shipbuilding department 3,825.43

To amount paid on account of two new houses for European foremen 6,870.77

To amount paid on account of new fitting shop 3,615.00

To amount paid completing office extensions 534.00

To amount paid completing conversion of spirit shed into stores 1,876.00

To amount paid on account of removing hill at back of new forge 2,021.00

To amount paid on account of new electric installation 713.00

To cost of additional sanitary fittings for No. 1 dock 1,736.00

To cost of machinery added to hydraulic and compressed air installations 631.00

To cost of new machine tools for sawmill 1,039.00

To cost of new machine tools for engine shop 1,352.00

To cost of new machines for electric shop 2,027.00

1,866,579.39

Cosmopolitan.
To value of Cosmopolitan Dock, as per last statement 315,797.70
Less amount since written off 15,000.00

301,797.70

To amount paid completing four new houses for European foremen 1,974.34

302,772.04

To value of tugs, dredgers, launches and lighters 421,006.00

To sundry debtors 186,730.05

To value of material on hand 1,574,329.29

\$4,479,416.77

3rd June, 1903. LIABILITIES.

By shareholders for 5,000 shares of \$50 each, fully paid up 2,500,000.00

To Admiralty loan £20,000 0 0

Less repayments 13,552 17 0

£6,447 3 0 at 1/7 1-16th 81,170.63

By sundry creditors 1,225,100.96

By balance of profit brought forward from last account \$196,256.84

By profit 476,888.29

673,145.13

\$4,479,416.77

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1903. \$ c.

To interest 39,224.51

To Crown rent 3,062.05

To fire insurance 4,281.88

To office expenses, salaries, stationery and rent of head office 43,062.94

To drawing office expenses and salaries 19,768.76

To telegrams 2,032.03

To legal expenses 310.90

To towage 5,151.81

To profit 476,888.29

\$593,785.17

1st Jan. to 30th June, 1903. \$ c.

By net earnings of the Company's three establishments 574,641.22

By dredger, net earnings 9,889.58

By balance contingent liability written back 9,637.64

By bonus on insurance premia 216.73

\$593,785.17

YANGTSE VALLEY CO.

The report of the Yangtze Valley Company, from the incorporation of the Company, December 28, 1903, to June 30, 1903, including Chinese accounts to December 31, 1902, states:—

The Hongkong Electric Tramways, authorised, extend to 14½ miles of single line, and will be completed early in 1904. The population of Hongkong is said to be 301,000, and if this is carried 50 times per annum at a fare averaging one penny per passenger, the receipts from passenger traffic would amount to £62,500 per annum. It is estimated that the working expenses will not exceed 50 per cent. of receipts.

The Association General, Ltd., was formed with a capital of £5,000 in shares of £1 each, to consolidate efforts which were being made by various parties to obtain a tramway concession in Singapore. The Ordinance authorises lines 28½ miles long, and will be completed by the end of October, 1904. It is estimated that the gross receipts should be £100,000 per annum from passengers, and £30,000 per annum from goods' traffic.

The Company having acquired certain gold-mining rights in Weihaiwei, a company called the Weihaiwei Gold Mining Company, Ltd., was incorporated in Shanghai with a capital of \$600,000 in shares of \$20 each, to acquire all the mining rights held by the Weihaiwei Syndicate, Ltd., and the Yangtze Valley Company, Ltd., including certain mining claims covering an area of approximately 9,600 acres, situated in the British leased territory of Weihaiwei.

The Company has a fourth interest in the Concession obtained in the Province of Yunnan by the Syndicat du Yunnan, Ltd.

Our agent in Szechuen, Mr. Archibald Little, has entered into an agreement with local officials under which mineral rights in the large Prefecture of Ningyuen have been acquired, and Mr. Little is now in Peking negotiating for the ratification by the Imperial Government of this agreement. It is understood that the area included in the agreement comprises large copper deposits. Other parties have an interest in this venture.

It is the intention of the Board to make an issue of 20,000 priority shares at par, giving to the shareholders a preferential right to subscribe the shares *pro rata* to the existing shareholders. The issue will be guaranteed, and as commission the guarantors will be given a right to subscribe at any time during two years from the date of issue an additional 40,000 priority shares at par. A resolution is set out in the notice of the meeting to convert 100,000 ordinary shares into priority shares. It is the intention, if the special resolution is carried, to elect Colonel Thys, Chevalier d'Opinter de Wouters, and Mr. E. Francoqui as additional directors of the Company.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR AUGUST.

The following cards were returned:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.		
Mr. A. Brook Smith	91	16 = 75
Mr. E. J. Grist	83	4 = 79
Dr. W. L. Martin, R.N.	86	7 = 79
Mr. W. J. Saunders	96	15 = 81
Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N.	93	11 = 82
Mr. T. C. Gray	98	16 = 82
Mr. J. Johnstone	89	5 = 84
Capt. J. Douglas	102	18 = 84
Capt. Keller	105	18 = 87
Hon. G. Stewart	92	4 = 88

25 entries

POOL.		
Capt. Keller	91	18 = 73
Mr. E. J. Grist	83	4 = 79
Dr. W. L. Martin, R.N.	86	7 = 79
Mr. W. J. Saunders	96	15 = 81
Mr. T. C. Gray	98	16 = 82
Mr. J. Johnstone	89	5 = 84
Capt. J. Douglas	102	18 = 84
Hon. G. Stewart	92	4 = 89

16 entries

H. M. sloop *Mutine*, Commander, Plenderleath, arrived at Shanghai on the 1st inst. She had lost one propeller blade and called in to have it replaced, for which purpose she was expected to go into dock.

BOXING AT THE CITY HALL.

There was a large attendance at the City Hall on the 8th inst. on the occasion of the contest between Jack Grace of America and Sam Newman of Manila. The preliminary bouts provided some good sport. Barrett, R.E., was to have opened the ball with an eight-round encounter with Callaghan of the *Vengeance*, but, in the absence of the latter, Barnes of the *Albion* stepped into the breach and despite of being out of training and at a disadvantage as regards reach and height he put up a very good fight which Referee Mike Collins declared a draw. Mr. J. Logan was time-keeper and Mr. W. Waters M.C. Next on the list of events was a six-round contest between Cohen and Marriott of the Derbyshires. Of a lively tussel Marriott had slightly the best show, due in no little degree, someone suggested, to the way in which Cohen's second, Syd Jones, plied his man with the water-bottle. This also was declared a draw. A novel encounter followed. Five men of the garrison entered the ring. One took his stand in the middle and one at each of the four corners. On the call of time the corner-men rushed upon the fifth and attempted to down him. Then the fight became general and in a few moments three men had been downed and thus put out of action. The remaining two fought out the event and Sapper Rodgers carried off first honours.

After three rounds between Coles and Connelly and six between two Naval men, the ring was got ready for the big fight of the evening. Mr. Waters was elected referee, Mr. F. G. Jordan held the watch, and Mr. Logan was check timekeeper. As Grace and Newman stepped into the ring they were accorded a hearty round of applause. Both looked remarkably fit and the general opinion was that they were a well matched pair and that a capital contest was assured. In the first round Grace opened the attack, after some wary sparring, with a jab with the right, landing on his opponent's neck. There were not many blows given or received on either side, but Grace had what advantage there was. In the second round Newman got home a heavy swing on Grace's face and followed up with some telling body-blows which made Grace look groggy and eventually sent him to the floor. He was on his feet, however, half-way through the count and spent the rest of the round in defence. Things were reversed in the next round; Grace did all the pressing and landed some nasty jabs, left and right, on Newman's face and neck, and at length forced his opponent to his knees. Newman took advantage of the count. Grace commenced a fierce attack in the fourth round and sent in a left shoulder blow which Newman responded to with a powerful counter on the ribs. Hard hitting ruled for the rest of the round, Newman getting home on his opponent's body and Grace swinging effectively at Newman's face. In the fifth round Grace attacked so hotly that he again forced Newman to the floor, and when time was called he was still pressing hard and keeping Newman on the defensive. In Round No. 6 Newman did not look particularly fresh when he left his corner and Grace hustled him around the ring raining in heavy blows on the face and ribs; Newman however showed a sturdy defence towards the end and got in one or two telling body-blows. Grace came up smiling at the call of time and forced the pace, landing several stinging blows on Newman's face. Newman at last found an opening and sent in a mighty upper cut that took effect on Grace's jaw, upon which Grace obviously lost his temper and was guilty of lifting his foot. But no harm was done. Referee Waters administered the necessary warning and the fight proceeded. In the next round Newman forced his man against the ropes and received a punishing blow on the head for which he afforded Grace an opening. Both men were now showing the effects of the hard work they had been putting in. Grace had all the ultimate advantage in the next round, the ninth; he did not show up very well to begin with but during the last half of the round he got in some stinging leads and counters and an upper cut that landed on the point of Newman's jaw and made him stagger. So far Grace appeared to have had the most

of the fight, and therefore that which happened in the tenth and last round was all the more surprising. From something approaching a clinch Grace sent in two hard blows on the ribs and followed up with a couple of hard punches on the jaw from his right. Newman took his punishment more than gamely and rushing in under Grace's defence he sent in a succession of swift short jabs that made Grace wince and drew blood from both sides of his face. Then came the finish. Grace again lost his temper, and being carried away no doubt by the excitement of the moment he lifted his foot and kicked Newman—a palpable kick. Referee Waters very rightly sent the men to their corners and awarded the fight to Newman. The round had gone 2 mins. 35 secs. when the foul occurred. Newman's victory was warmly cheered by the audience, and he deserved the ovation for the plucky fight he made of it and the good temper with which he took the pretty heavy punishment that Grace inflicted.

BOWLING MATCH AT KOWLOON.

A team from the Kowloon Docks met a team of Kowloon residents in a match at the Bowling Green, Kowloon, on the 8th inst., and the result of an unfinished game was 37 points for the Dock men against 18 for their opponents. The match, which was postponed from the previous Saturday, aroused much interest, and as both teams were strong a good contest was anticipated. At the last moment, however, two of the Kowloon eight, Messrs W. C. Jack and J. Galt, failed to put in an appearance, and their places were taken by Messrs. T. Skinner and G. R. Edwards. The Dock team was as originally selected, and the composition of both as follows:—

KOWLOON DOCKS.

A. G. Ewing
D. Gow
J. Kiercross
J. Kyles
E. J. Main
J. Parkes
W. Deas
J. Ramsey

KOWLOON.

J. Macdonald
A. W. Laverlon
T. W. Robertson
A. Gibson
C. F. Focken
T. Skinner
G. R. Edwards
A. Ritchie

Two rinks were played, of which the skips were:—No. 1 rink—A. G. Ewing and J. Macdonald; No. 2 rink—D. Gow and A. Ritchie.

The greens were a trifle heavy, but not so bad as to materially affect the game; the only drawback was the falling light, which made it impossible for No. 2 rink to finish the sixteen heads the sides agreed to play. No. 1 rink managed to get through them all, but the other rink only completed thirteen—an unlucky number for the Kowloonites, who were five behind when the last bowl was rolled. The Dock men played a good, consistent game, and on No. 1 rink, where Mr. Deas showed excellent form, led their opponents all the way, finishing up with 24 against 10. On the second rink the contest ran on closer lines, but when it was interrupted by the gathering darkness the Dock representatives led the others by 13 to 8, the total scores for the respective sides then being:—Kowloon Docks, 37; Kowloon, 18.

A return match will take place on Saturday, 22nd inst.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

The Sealed Handicap tournament of the Hongkong Chess Club has at last concluded and the two prizes have fallen to Messrs. Albert Raymond and R. A. Dastur. Mr. Dastur, who had to concede two points to the winner, was unlucky in that he lost his game to Mr. de Souza before that player retired (after winning five games off the reel), whereas the first prize-winner scored by default against Mr. de Souza. The handicapping, which was arranged by the Hon. (Secretary who did not compete) would doubtless have been more successful in bringing the players together had not four retired without playing a game and two more after playing a little over half their games. The leading scores were:—

A. Raymond	5 + 6 handicap	= 11
R. A. Dastur	6 + 4	= 10
W. W. Pelling	5 + 4	= 9
M. J. Danenberg	6½ + 2	= 8½
R. H. Newborn	4½ + 4	= 8½
E. J. Moses	3½ + 3	= 6½
H. E. Pollock	6 [Scratch]	= 6

HONGKONG.

On the 9th inst. was the first anniversary of the coronation of King Edward, and the men-of-war in harbour dressed ship in celebration of the occasion.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Lieutenant Q. C. A. Cranford, to the *Tamar*, additional, for T. duties at Hongkong, to date July 4.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 9th August were 192 non-Chinese and 60 Chinese to the former and 37 non-Chinese and 1,542 Chinese to the latter institution.

Contrary to expectation, Sir Ernest Satow, H. B. M. Minister at Peking, left on on the 8th inst. for Shanghai on the P. & O. steamer *Sumatra*, which, on passing H.M.S. *Tamar*, was saluted by that vessel. H.M.S. *Vengeance*, on which His Excellency was expected to make the trip North, left the harbour at 10 a.m. on the 8th inst., and may possibly convey the Minister farther North.

A sad accident attended a police gambling raid at 30, Eastern Street, West Point, on Tuesday night last. The suspected persons were taken by surprise, and a rush was made to escape into the next house by way of the verandah. During the scramble one of the gamblers, a coolie, either fell or was pushed over the verandah into the street below, a distance of forty feet. He alighted on his face and chest, and sustained terrible injuries which must have made death instantaneous. The body was removed to the Government mortuary.

At the office of the Public Works Department on Monday two lots of Crown land on the Shauiwan Road were put up for sale by Mr. Rees, on behalf of the Government. Shauiwan I. L. 396, containing 630 square feet, and a road frontage of 40 feet by 70 deep, was ultimately sold to Mr. Mootee for \$6,200. The lot carries with it an annual Crown rent of \$44. The upset price was \$1,890. Chinese houses are to be erected on this property. Shauiwan I. L. 397, with an area of 2,800 square feet, road frontage of 40 feet by 70 feet deep, was bought by Mr. Wong Yee Kai for \$2,600, the upset being \$84. The annual Crown rent attached to the lot is \$20.

A shocking domestic tragedy occurred at Shauiwan on the night of Tuesday. A Chinese fisherman and his wife lived at 1, Un Hing Lane, Shauiwan, where they rented a cubicle. Jealousy appears to have been the motive for the crime, which involved the killing of the wife and the attempted suicide of her murderer. The weapon used was a knife, and the dead woman was flung about in a fearful manner, her throat and the upper part of her body bearing the worst injuries; the infuriated man then attempted to take his own life by cutting his throat, but though the self-inflicted wound is a dangerous one it is not expected to prove fatal. The police were informed of the occurrence, and entered the house; the woman was already dead, but the man was still alive. A launch was immediately procured, and he was carried on board and taken to hospital; the body of his victim was sent to the mortuary. The couple were married only last year.

Many curious glances were cast on Thursday morning at an odd-looking couple sitting in the corridor of the Hongkong Hotel. They smoked cigars and appeared indifferent to if not entirely unconscious of the embarrassing attentions of the passers-by. They were a couple of midgets, whose diminutive height justified their right to the title, for the man was only 29 inches high and the girl 28 inches. Their name is de la Cruz, and they are brother and sister; the former is aged 29 years and the latter 31. They look their age, too, in spite of their undersized bodies, for each has a head that would not look out of place on the shoulders of an average-sized man or woman. Two Americans are taking them to the St. Louis Exposition, where the little folks are to be put up for show. The party expect to stop here about a week, and meantime arrangements are being completed to make hay while the sun shines by exhibiting the couple daily at a moderate charge to people who would like to see them dance, which they are said to do very well.

An outbreak of fire occurred at 80, Queen's Road West on the 9th inst., in a medicine-shop, and did serious damage to the contents of three floors before it was extinguished. The entire premises were insured for \$4,800.

A Chinaman who robbed an Indian boy in Kowloon of a silver watch the other day, on the pretext of putting some lichees in the boy's pocket, was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour at the Police Court on the 11th inst. by Mr. J. H. Kemp.

The Japanese steamer *Kagoshima Maru* which arrived here on Monday, brought with her the Chinese crew, numbering 24, of a fishing-junk which became waterlogged in a typhoon and was floating helplessly fifty miles from Breaker Point when the Japanese boat sighted her.

The year's plague total since the 1st January is now 1,392. During the week ended Saturday last 9 cases of plague (all Chinese) and 9 deaths occurred. The only other case of communicable disease during the same period was one of enteric fever, the patient being Mr. T. Petrie, late of the *China Mail*.

The following returns of the average amount of bank-notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st July, 1903, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are published in the *Gazette*:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	\$ 3,581,275	\$ 1,750,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	10,174,925	7,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	429,752	150,000
Total	\$14,185,952	\$8,900,000

To Queen's Road seems to have become applicable the old joke about the Strand—that it is always "up." At the present moment the P.W.D. are making things lively for pedestrians and vehicles in the neighbourhood of the Post Office and the Clock Tower. A large gang of coolies are plying pick and shovel and sending pebbles and debris flying into the air and upon the pavements in a manner to make one afraid of losing one's eye-sight. Also, a steam-roller adds to the uproar. So thunderous was the noise it was emitting on Wednesday that Mr. Justice Wise sitting in the Supreme Court above was unable to hear the arguments of the learned counsel addressing him and sent down the usher to order the steam-roller to cease work. After some delay the annoyance stopped and the Court was enabled to proceed with the business in hand. The acoustic properties of the Supreme Court are seriously enough affected by the ordinary street noises when the Court is sitting, but when a steam-roller adds to the uproar then the worse might well appear the better case so far as what the Judge can hear is concerned.

H.M.S. *Britomart* arrived from Weihaiwei on the 10th inst.; H.M.S. *Phoenix* left for the same port.

The U.S. cruisers *Albatross*, *Cincinnati*, and *Raleigh* arrived on the 11th inst. from Singapore.

On the 13th inst. the French gunboat *Decidée* left for Canton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Shanghai "school question," which threatened at one time to become a rather bitter controversy, has been settled by an agreement that the matter of biblical teaching shall be shelved until the ratifiers have given their consent to its inclusion in the curriculum.

Two beachcombers by name Mathews and Rottgardt were each sentenced to eight years' imprisonment with hard labour for robbery at Manila. This seems to be a departure on the part of the insular authorities from their usual custom of shipping undesirables to this and other ports.

Beri-beri has broken out in the Siamese Navy, and many of the men are down with it. There is also something of an epidemic of this disease among the students in the Royal Military College, where, says the *Bangkok Times*, one would hardly expect to find it, if it is really due to the food eaten.

The Lu-Han Railway has so far been laid to Choshan. Cars have been run on trial between Hankow and the present terminus so that regular passenger traffic might be soon inaugurated.

The *Japan Herald* understands that the purchase of the "Ben" line steamer *Benvenue* by a Japanese firm is now under negotiation. The *Benlurig* of the same line, was recently sold to a Japanese coal-merchant of Yokohama.

The first case of cholera in Shanghai this season occurred on the 7th inst., the victim being native P.C. 736, who succumbed, a few hours after he was seized with the disease, in the S. Luke's Hospital.

The *N. C. Daily News* reports that the sailing vessel *Brilliant*, which left Shanghai some time ago for Sourabaya, has, after a long struggle to get through the various straits which have to be passed to get to that place, returned to Shanghai. The Captain said that it was impossible to get through by the route which he intended, and that the other small straits through which he had the option of passing were too dangerous for a vessel the size of the *Brilliant*, which requires two miles in which to turn.

The Civil Governor of the Philippines has named the members of the committee who will investigate the opium traffic in foreign countries and report the result to the Commission. Those chosen are Major Carter, of the Board of Health, Doctor Albert, president of the Partido Federal, and Bishop Brent, of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The compensation of the members while they are on the trip has been raised from \$25 to \$400 (gold) per month. Of course this does not apply to Major Carter as he will receive his regular salary during his absence from the islands. The committee will immediately leave for Japan, Formosa, Upper Burma, Hongkong, and Singapore, and study the traffic in each of these places and at the conclusion of four months will return again to Manila and submit a report to the Commission. This report will probably be the foundation of the final action of the government on the opium question.

Prof. W. C. Welborn, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture, and Mr. J. A. Charlesworth, representing Andrews and Co., cotton manufacturers of Manila, are investigating the cotton-raising industries in Northern Luzon with an idea of attempting its promotion and introduction in those localities peculiarly adapted to its successful growth. The greater share of the raw cotton which Mr. Charlesworth uses comes from New Orleans, by way of England, but the largest native product is obtained from the vicinity of Loag. The tree cotton is useful only for a limited number of purposes on account of its short fibre, but it is thought that with proper encouragement and cultivation the cotton industry may become a most valuable one in the Philippines. Prof. Welborn having had practical experience in the culture of cotton in his Mississippi home is especially fitted to promulgate the successful growing and introduction of this produce in the Philippines.—*Manila Times*.

The *Japan Mail* (translating from the *Asahi*) recalls the story of the celebrated Russian lumber concession in Corea. It was obtained when the King of Corea—he had not yet made himself Emperor—was a refugee in the Russian Legation; that is to say, obtained under abnormal circumstances and without recourse to the usual channels of diplomacy. Then it lay, a dead letter, in the pigeon-holes of the Russian chancellerie until the moment came when the concession was about to lapse by flux of time, a danger that equally threatened the contemporary concession of a French railway from Seoul to Wiju. Russia, however, always conservative of opportunities, obtained a renewal of the charter. Still there were no signs of giving practical effect to the provisions of the document, nor did any signs become apparent until the very moment when the Manchurian problem entered an acute phase. That is a suggestive synchronism. It would seem that the "asylum concession"—as this lumber charter may justly be called—suffers from the defect of vagueness and that Russia, not unnaturally, has sought to avail herself to the full of its elastic terms.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1902-3 lbs.	1901-2 lbs.
Yokohama	15,195,031	11,535,747
Hioho	—	—
	15,195,031	11,535,747

SILK.

CANTON, 18th August.—Exports.—Silk.—Re-reels There have been rather more enquiry for these at somewhat under market rates. Settlements are reported of 20 Bales each Nos. 1 & 2, Soey Wo Cheong, at \$775, and 50 Bales No. 1, Wang Hing, at \$765. Filature.—During the earlier part of fortnight transactions remained hampered by the steady advance in Exchange. Quotations ruled very irregular and dealers in general refused to meet buyers to the full extent of the concessions asked. Latterly, under the influence of rather improved advices from Europe, buyers have shown more readiness to meet holders and a fair current of business has ensued, in which finest sizes have continued, as before, in marked favour. From sales made we quote: Sun Yue Lun 9/11 at \$970/980 and 10/12 at \$900, U. Han Cheong 10/12 at \$910, Yut Cheong Wo 10/12 at \$900, Kwong Ho 10/12 at \$895, On Wo Hing 10/12 at \$890/900, Sui Lun Hing 10/12 at \$900, Shing King Cheung 10/12 at \$890, Kam Lun 10/12 at \$880, Yu King Lun 11/13 at \$872, Shun Kee 13/5 at \$855, Po King 10/18/22 has been done at \$810. At the close there is a better feeling and prices are distinctly firmer. Best 3e Ordre has sold with considerable divergence in prices, according to the individual disposition of holders, the concessions obtainable on these sorts being much more marked than in the case of Steam Filatures. Thus, Soey Wo Cheong 11/13 has been booked at \$800 and, in the same chop 11/13, 13/15, 14/16 have sold together at \$775, while Yee Wo Hing has placed the three sizes at \$782 1/2 average. 8/22 has attracted attention at \$690 up to \$710. Increased firmness is reported from the country owing to the requirements of native consumption, and this class is now held for subjoined quotations. Short-reels.—An easier tone, especially on "spot" silk, has resulted in some further business on the basis of \$890 for Hau King, Kwong Wo Tai 14/16, \$890 for Quan Wo Hing, King Seng, Mui Sie Lun 14/16 and \$870 for Kum Sing Lun. This class moves with difficulty at present prices, but on a moderate reduction considerable transactions would result. Waste Silk.—There is scarcely any alteration to report in this article. The continued lowness of offers from the home markets has produced a slight weakening in local values, but buyers and sellers are still too much apart for business to result. The stock moreover is composed entirely of 1st and 2nd Crop produce and is therefore more or less under undesirable.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1902-3 bales.	1901-2 bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	28,159	27,013
	28,159	27,013

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA & JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1902-3 bales.	1901-2 bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	48,443	44,396
	48,443	44,396

CAMPHOR.

Hongkong, 14th August.—No arrivals.

RICE.

Hongkong 14th August.—The prices are going downward, market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.90 to 3.95
" Round, Good quality	5.35 to 5.40
" Long	5.47 to 5.52
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.05 to 4.10
" Garden, " No. 1	4.55 to 4.60
" White,	5.42 to 5.48
" Fine Cargo	5.58 to 5.62

SUGAR.

Hongkong 14th August.—The prices are declining a little, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.45 to \$8.50 per cwt.
Do. " 2, White	7.70 to 7.75 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.10 to 6.15 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.95 to 6.00 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.35 to 8.40 "
Do. " 1, White	7.60 to 7.65 "
Do. " 1, Brown	5.90 to 5.95 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.80 to 5.85 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.70 to 12.75 "
Shekloong "	10.85 to 10.90 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Stentor, sailed on 5th August. For London:—Tea 1505 boxes scented caper (31,605 lbs.), 1,825 packages hemp, 50 cases preserves, 101 cases preserves, 75 bales feathers, 25 cases soy, 127 cases shells, 44 packages effects, china ware, &c., 66 packages naval stores, 521 cases wines and spirits, 250 cases canned salmon, 260 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—2 packages effects, 70 bales hemp, 2,750 cases canned salmon. For London and Manchester: 100 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—4 drums fish oil. For Marseilles:—25 bales waste silk. For Antwerp:—98 bales canes. For Rotterdam:—100 cases casia. For Various Ports:—18 packages sundries.

Per steamer Yarra, sailed on 11th August. For Marseilles:—290 bales raw silk, 2 cases raw silk, 150 bales waste silk, 28 bales hair, 9 cases silk, 4 cases curios, 2 cases books, 222 packages matting. For Lyons:—389 bales raw silk, 1 case silks, 1 case feathers. For Havre:—11 cases chinaware, 5 cases tea. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 14th August.—Small sales at quotations.

Cardiff	\$20.50 to \$21.00 ex ship sellers.
Australian	\$10.00 to \$11.00 nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 to 12.25 ex ship.
Milki Lump	\$11.00 to \$12.00 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.50 to \$10.00 ex ship, steady

COTTON.

HONGKONG 14th Aug.—Very small business at slight reduced rates, market closes quiet. Stock about 1,400 bales.

Bombay	23.50 to 24.50 per cwt.
Bengal (New), Rangoon	24.50 to 27.50 "
and Dacca	—
Shanghai and Japanese	29.50 to 30.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	29.50 to 30.00 "

Sale:—200 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 14th August: Early in the fortnight the sales noted below were reported, but since then dealers have shown little or no disposition to buy. Importers have been pressing sales at a reduction of from \$1 to \$2 per bale on all desirable spinnings, but, so far, have met with little success and only a comparatively small business has been induced. Dealers hold full supplies embracing every count and grade of spinning; and having in view the improvement in exchange and the extreme anxiety of holders to realize, are meeting the country demand at more or less sacrifice. Arrivals during the interval have been large and our stocks show a heavy increase on last estimate. At the close, despite a stronger market in Bombay, importers are becoming very anxious sellers and would willingly submit to even greater concession, if any large quantity can be placed, but buyers are quite apathetic, and we are now passing through a period of unusual depression.

Local Manufacture: The local mill is fairly steady in its quotations and sales of about 300 bales No. 12s, at \$10, are reported.

Japanese Yarn:—A concession of from \$1 to \$2, per bale has resulted in sales of 100 bales No. 20s, yellow joss at \$126 and 30 bales Miike at \$124.

Raw Cotton:—The market has been featureless in Indian descriptions. Exporters to Japan and the local mill are not in evidence and only a small parcel of 100 bales superfine Bengal has found buyers at \$26, leaving a stock of about 2,000 bales on the market. China kinds are quiet. We quote to-day Indian \$20 to \$27 and China \$27 to \$30.

Exchange on India has continued to advance and closes strong to-day at Rs. 135 1/2 for T.T. and Rs. 135 1/2 for Post. On Shanghai 72 1/2 and on Yokohama at 88.

The undernoted business in imported and local yarn is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 31st ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 6,689 bales, comprising 1,830 bales No. 10, 50 bales No. 12s, 250 bales No. 14s, 525 bales No. 16s, and 2,584 bales No. 20s., market closing weak, but prices steady.

Japanese:—Continue in moderate request and sales of about 2,500 bales have been effected at Tls 38 to 9 1/2 for No. 16s and Tls. 9 1/2 at 98 1/2 for No. 20s., prices showing a decline of one to one and a half taels and market closing unsteady.

Local:—Enquiry has considerably subsided, and with the exception of 500 bales No. 14s. sold at Tls. 86 1/2 no further new business has been recorded. Close weak.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th Aug.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.91	to 3.25
58 to 60 " 3.30	to 4.00
64 to 66 " 4.25	to 5.75
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds 5.00	to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.50	to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 2.50	to 3.00
7lbs. (32 "), " 3.10	to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.30	to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 18 1/2	to 4.75
to 14 lbs.)	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs.)	1.70 to 6.00
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BROCADES—Dyed

to —	to —
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DAMASKS—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.15
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.27 to 0.63
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17 1/2 to 0.23

per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25	to 5.00
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V. OLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.75	to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25	to 3.00

per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 6.95	to 9.75
Assorted	7.10 to 9.90
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches (12.50 to 21.00
Assorted	—
Orleans—Plain	9.50 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.

0.65 to 1.75	per pair
Fine quality	1.60 to 2.50

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.40 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.40	to —
Swedish Bar	4.45 to —
Small Round Rod	4.65 to —
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	0.31 to —
Wire, 16/25	0.00 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.20 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.15	to —
Australian	8.15 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.50	to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.50	to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.50	to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00 to —
Tin	77.00 to —

Tin-Plates

7.30 to —	box, per
per cwt. cas	—
Steel 1/2 to 1	6.75 to —

SUNDRIES—

	per picul
Quicksilver	170.00 to —

per box

Window Glass	5.00 to —
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SHANGHAI, August 7th (from Messrs. Noel,

Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report).—Since the issue of our 1st circular on 30th ultimo the market has continued in the same lifeless condition and beyond a few small sales, here and there, of small quantities of 8.4-lbs. and 10-lbs. Grey Shirtings the market is practically at a standstill. The general uncertainty as to the future regarding Exchange, the condition of the Northern

markets and the price of Cotton all tend to bring about this unfortunate position of affairs and with clearances as they are now the market is in a very dissolute condition. The latest quotation for Cotton from Liverpool is 662d., but as the Cotton market at the moment appears to be in the hands of a syndicate and as the Lancashire mills are said to be only working three days a week, this quotation means nothing, but rather indicates a trying time in the near future for the operatives in Lancashire. For the local consuming districts there has been next to nothing done from first hands, but from Native sources we have been told that the Mountain dealers have arranged to clear in the near future some 2,000 bales of Indian Spinings and 1,000 bales of American Goods from second hand holders. This may serve to indicate that there is some truth in the rumour mentioned in our last issue that the financial difficulties in the North had at last been satisfactorily arranged. The Szechuen and River Ports continue to clear from previous purchases in a fairly satisfactory manner and they have paid some attention to replacing their stock of Indian Spinings by purchasing during the interval some 3,403 bales, chiefly 20s, which they have secured at rather lower prices. Newchwang is said to be doing very little as exchange is against them.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th August, 1903.—The difficulties of finance continue to exercise a very depressing influence on our market, and we have again only a very limited business to report. The principal feature of the week under review has been the severe decline in Banks, whilst in a lesser degree most of our principal stocks have suffered owing to the prevailing desire to sell and secure sterling remittances at the current favourable rate of exchange.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai fell rapidly under the pressure of home selling orders, and with unimportant transactions reported at \$670 and \$680 nothing of note occurred until \$650 was reached, when a fair business was done, the market closing with small buyers at this figure. London is unchanged at £64. 10s. Nationals have improved their position, the last reported sale being at \$29.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in some request at \$497½ with sellers at \$500. China Traders are quiet with probable sellers at \$61½. North Chinas have been booked at Tls. 230, and Yangtszes at \$132½. Cantons have sold and are wanted at \$177½ with sellers at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue quiet at \$327½. Chinas have been placed at \$86½, and further shares can be disposed of at this figure.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have received some attention from investors, and fair sales have resulted at \$36½, the market closing with further sellers at the rate Indo-Chinas continue depressed and are now obtainable at \$7. Douglases are weaker with sellers at \$40½. Star Ferries are obtainable at \$28 and \$18 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports have sold at 23s. 6d. and 22s. 6d. and close with further sellers at the latter rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars can be placed in small lots at \$95, and Luzons at \$10.

MINING.—Punjoms continue out of favour with sellers at \$2. Jelebus have declined to \$1 with sellers. Raubs have been booked at \$8½ and close in demand at this figure.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have eased off and are now obtainable at \$213 after a small sale to-day at this rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves can still be placed at \$88 and New Amoy Docks at \$37½. Farnhams are lower again in the North with the last reported sale at Tls. 152½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue in some request at \$155 with small sales and further sales at \$156. Kowloon Lands are still obtainable at \$38, and West Points at \$50½. Humphreys Estates after a small sale at \$12 are obtainable at \$11½. Hongkong Hotels are limited with sales and some sellers at \$154. Orientals can still be disposed of at \$5.

COTTON MILLS.—The Northern stocks are unchanged. Hongkongs have sold at \$14½, and \$15 is now offered for this stock.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are easier with sellers at \$24. Watsons have been booked at \$14½ and \$14½ and close with buyers at the former rate. Elctrics are obtainable at \$12½ and \$7 for the old and new shares respectively. Bel's Asbestos are offering at \$6, and Powells at \$0. China Providents can be procured at \$9½.

MEETINGS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ordinary half-yearly meeting to-morrow, 15th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 24th instant. Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 31st October.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$650, buyers { £64. 15s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$29
H. Shares	28	\$29
Foun. Shares	21	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$6 sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$6½
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½
China Sugar	\$100	\$95, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$20, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 36, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$15, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$12 75, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$320
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$14½ buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$154, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145,
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$213, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$177½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$87,
China Traders	\$25	\$61½,
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$327½
North China	\$25	Tls. 230
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$100	\$497½, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$132½, sales
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$155, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$8, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$50½
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£ca. 250	\$60, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$1, sellers
Punjom	\$11	\$2
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$8½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$50, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$20
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40½, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$36½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$87, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$1. 2. 6. sellers
Star Ferry	\$5	\$18, sales & buy.
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 157½, sales
Tebr. Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9.10, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$200, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

* SHANGHAI, 7th August (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). Business was interrupted by the Bank holidays falling on the 3rd and 4th inst., but a fair trade has been done in various stocks at about the same rates. **BANKS.**—H. and S. Banks. The rate remains the same, viz.: Tls. 680. London quotes £64. The report arrived this week and announces an Interim div. of 1. 10s. 0d. for the half year ending 30th June, with \$1,435,681.17 carried forward, and the Silver Reserve now standing at \$8,000,000. **INSURANCE.**—Yangtszes, a fair business has been done at \$133 locally. **SHIPPING.**—Indos have suffered a decline and close at Tls. 65, the same rate prevailing for forward delivery as far as December. Shanghai Tug Boats have been dealt in at Tls. 860. The transfer books are at last open. **DOCKS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co. A few transactions have taken place at Tls. 17½ for cash, 160 Aug., 162½ Sep., 165 October and 167½ November and December, closing quiet. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves remain untouched. **SUGARS.**—No business reported. **MINING.**—There are buyers of Kaipings (bearer scrip) at Tls. 6.70. Weihaiwei Golds have sellers without business reported, at \$21. **LANDS.**—Shanghai Lands have been negotiated at Tls. 105 and 104. **INDUSTRIAL.**—No business in Cottons. Shanghai Gas have paid an Int. div. of Tls. 3½, and have been placed at Tls. 109 ex. div. Maatschappij &c. in Lankats. Hardly anything done this week, and the rate remains at Tls. 860 cash, with a steady market forward at Tls. 807½ September and 312½ October. **STORES & HOTELS.**—A single transaction in Hotel des Colonies at Tls 16 is reported. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Shanghai Horse Bazaars have sellers at Tls. 163½. Mutual Telephones have been dealt in at Tls. 67. **LOANS.**—Municipal Debentures 6 per cent. have been dealt in at Tls. 101.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 14th August.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	228½
Credits 4 months' sight	232
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	185
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY. —Telegraphic Transfer	135½
Bank, on demand	135½
ON CALCUTTA. —Telegraphic Transfer	135½
Bank, on demand	135½
ON SHANGHAI. —Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	88
ON MANILA.	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.	
On demand	109
ON HAIPHONG.	
On demand	1½ p.c. pr.
ON SAIGON.	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK. —On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	58.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Kintuck, Nestor, Agamemnon, Glaucus, Palawan, Tydeus, Hakata Maru, Pak Ling, Sithonia.

FOR LONDON.—Palawan, Bengal, Kintuck, Nestor, Pak Ling, Glaucus, Tydeus, Merionethshire, Hakata Maru, Agamemnon.

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Fingus, Tydeus, Jason.

FOR MARSHALLS.—Kintuck, Nestor, Caledonia, Agamemnon, Glaucus, Tydeus, Hakata Maru, Pak Ling.

FOR BREMEN.—*Sachsen, Königsberg.*
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sithonia, Königsberg, Andalusia, Abessinia.*
 FOR ODESSA.—*Edouard Bary.*
 FOR TRIESTE.—*M. Baquettem.*
 FOR NEW YORK.—*Arabia, Baron Driesen, St. Bede.*
 FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Idrapura.*
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Pleiades, Aki Maru, Ningchow, Shinano Maru.*
 FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India, Tartar.*
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Changsha, Kasuga Maru, Empire.*
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Arratoon Apar.*
 FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—*Banca.*

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 14th August.—Freights coastwise continue about the same as last reported except there is a better demand for tonnage from north coast Java to Hongkong, 26 cents per picul being obtainable for dry and 32 cents per picul for wet sugar. From Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul; to Philippines, several boats have been closed at 25 cents, and more tonnage might be placed at this figure. From Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul. Coal freights remain weak. From Moji to this, \$1.75; to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Helen A. Wyman—American ship, 1,661 tons, Hongkong to New York, private terms.
Vale of Doon—British barque, 603 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$7.00 in full.
Guthrie—British steamer, 1,494 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.
Lothian—British steamer, 3,223 tons, Moji to Hongkong (part cargo), \$1.80 per ton.
Ely—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.
Oro—British steamer, 2,147 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$3.25 per ton.
Loyal—German steamer, 1,194 tons, Hongkong to Nagasaki, \$2.80 per ton.
Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul.
Oro—British steamer, 2,147 tons, three ports north coast Java to one or two ports Japan, 25 cents and 37 cents per picul.
Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 989 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.
Pionier—German steamer, 975 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
M. Struve—German steamer, 906 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$6,000 per month.
Undine—Norwegian steamer, 1,010 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$6,000 per month.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

August—

9, *Caledonien*, French str., from Marseilles.
 9, *S. Rickmers*, British str., from Bangreng.
 9, *Tyr*, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 10, *Brigomart*, British str., from Whaiwei.
 10, *Déavongae*, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, *Ellen Rickmers*, Ger. str., from Swatow.
 10, *Hailong*, British str., from Swatow.
 10, *Helen Wyman*, Am. tge. from Spore.
 10, *Hoiha*, French str., from Pakhoi.
 10, *Kagosima Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
 10, *Kintuck*, British str., from London.
 10, *Kowloon*, German str., from Chinkiang.
 10, *Kumano Maru*, Japanese str., from Manila.
 10, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Canton.

10, *Monghut*, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, *Robilla Maru*, Japanese str., from Manila.
 10, *I ubi*, British str., from Manila.
 10, *Teucer*, British str., from Liverpool.
 10, *Yarra*, French str., from Shanghai.
 10, *Yuehsang*, British str., from Manila.
 11, *Aki Maru*, Japanese str., from Seattle.
 11, *Albany*, U.S. cruiser, from Singapore.
 11, *Arratoon Apar*, Brit. str., from Ca'cutta.
 11, *Badenia*, German str., from Foochow.
 11, *Chiyeun*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 11, *Cincinnati*, U.S. cruiser, from Singapore.
 11, *Claverhill*, British str., from Cardiff.
 11, *Daigi Maru*, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 11, *Fausang*, British str., from Hefoo.
 11, *Haimun*, British str., from Tamsui.
 11, *Inaba Maru*, Japanese str., from London.
 11, *Kaifong*, British str., from Ililo.
 11, *Königsberg*, German str., from Hamburg.
 11, *Laertes*, British str., from Liverpool.
 11, *Raleigh*, U.S. cruiser, from Singapore.
 11, *Saugkiang*, British str., from Manila.
 11, *Whampoa*, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, *Ajax*, British str., from Tacoma.
 12, *Anping Maru*, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 12, *Banca*, British str., from Yokohama.
 12, *Clara Jeben*, German str., from Hoihow.
 12, *Haitau*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 12, *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.
 12, *Kwangtah*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 12, *Pleiades*, British str., from Manila.
 12, *Pronto*, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 13, *Amara*, British str., from Java.
 13, *Choysang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, *Chusan*, British str., from Bombay.
 13, *Kasuga Maru*, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 13, *Kohsieh ng*, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, *Lyemmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 13, *Ningchow*, British str., from Liverpool.
 13, *P. C. C. Kiao*, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, *Pronto*, German str., from Amoy.

DEPARTURES.

August—

9, *Beneluch*, British str., for Nagasaki.
 9, *Changechow*, British str., for Canton.
 9, *Daijin Maru*, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 9, *Haiching*, British str., for Coast Ports.
 9, *Hong Bee*, British str., for Amoy.
 9, *Kwongsang*, British str., for Canton.
 9, *Lawada*, British str., for Amoy.
 9, *Loyal*, German str., for Hongay.
 9, *Rosetta Maru*, Japanese str., for Manila.
 9, *Solveig*, Norwegian str., for Labuan.
 9, *Satsuma*, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, *Tyr*, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 10, *Caledonien*, French str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Chickiang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Holslein*, German str., for Swatow.
 10, *M'leine Rickmer*, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 10, *Phoenix*, British gunboat, for Weihaiwei.
 10, *Tsurugisan Maru*, Japanese str., for Moji.
 10, *Tsuan*, British str., for Australia.
 10, *Zafiro*, British str., for Manila.
 11, *Dagmar*, German str., for Shanghai.
 11, *Gregory Apar*, British str., for Calcutta.
 11, *Hailong*, British str., for Swatow.
 11, *Hanoi*, French str., for Haiphong.
 11, *Iyo Maru*, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 11, *Kagashima Maru*, Jap. str., for Bombay.
 11, *Nanchang*, British str., for Canton.
 11, *Quarta*, German str., for Swatow.
 11, *Saline Rickmers*, British str., for Canton.
 11, *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.
 11, *Waiha*, British str., for Amoy.
 11, *Yarra*, French str., for Europe.
 12, *Athenian*, British str., for Vancouver.
 12, *Chingwo*, British str., for San Francisco.
 12, *Chiyeun*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 12, *Decidee*, French gunboat, for Canton.
 12, *Fausang*, British str., for Canton.
 12, *Hailan*, French str., for Hoihow.
 12, *Haimun*, British str., for Swatow.
 12, *Kintuck*, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Kumano Maru*, Japanese str., for Japan.
 12, *Loongmoon*, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Pronto*, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 12, *Suisang*, British str., for Samarang.
 12, *Toonan*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Whampoa*, British str., for Canton.
 13, *Badenia*, German str., for Hamburg.
 13, *Boieldieu*, French barque, for Taitai.
 13, *Capri*, Italian str., for Bombay.
 13, *Daigi Maru*, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 13, *Kwangtah*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 13, *Lyemmoon*, German str., for Canton.

13, *Phranang*, German str., for Swatow.
 13, *Prosper*, Norwegian str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mde. Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Le Lardner; from Suez, Mrs. Betty Roussette; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Saffaty, Messrs. Theodor Skun and Bishop; from Saigon, Rev. Karlot, Messrs. Juan Ernest and Mary; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Adhamar Deschis and Rafaele Jandolphi and Sister Maria Domigland; from Colombo, Miss Maria Gernar, Messrs. Isaak, Liza Kosenberg, Maritz and Ana Drucher; from Singapore, Mr. Oviedo; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Lacroix, Messrs. Lacroix, Perlicot and Second.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Misses L. Neill and N. Ill, Messrs. A. Wilson, P. C. Neill, W. Brattie, J. W. Mitchell, A. S. Gould, Gaston Bordat, P. C. Freer, Benito Laurean, Thompson, Molyneux, I. Tajima, Mrs. S. Shindju, Sister U. Sula; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Fairbairn, Mr. and Mrs. E. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Tose Silvestre and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. T. Kitamura and three children, Dr. U. Boise, Misses Ninde (2) and Robinson, Messrs. W. E. Norris, Parce, F. I. Lincoln, Antonio Constantino, T. Furuya, and A. Perez; for Kobe, Mr. S. Misaka and Miss Kawa aka; for Nagasaki, Mrs. N. Shimasaki, Mrs. T. Yamaguchi and Miss S. Pobayashi.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson and infant, Miss Derval, Le Comte Barsens, Messrs. Rouffart, Hindo and Macke; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr. Hamada; from Shanghai, Messrs. Lefrancois Charles Victor, MacAndrews and Peroni; for Batavia, from Kobe, Mr. O. Bloch; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. Abdul Caffar; from Shanghai, Capt. Gerlach; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Madrogadats; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. Gavan, Le Rolland and Le Bernard; from Kobe, Mr. Bariller; from Shanghai, Messrs. Marechal, Nagel, Dhoste, Gilly, Manier, Fishbacher, Gohey, Ricouneud, Bihan, Philippe, Courein, Michaud Jean Marie, E. P. te, Dethève and Martelet.

Per *Aki Maru*, from Seattle, Messrs. S. W. Stanton, H. Awan, H. A. Mayer, A. J. Wicks, W. Ehrhardt, J. H. Lee, G. Bruton, Joseph Winter, S. V. Winter and Geo. Bowman.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from London, Lien's Carter, E. C. Bosanquet and O. M. F. Stokes, Gunner J. H. Kent; from Marseilles, Messrs. N. R. Stewart, V. F. Deacon, F. Graham and Lient. O. N. Makins; from Bombay, Messrs. Noormohd, Soomji, Noormohd, Rajabally, Santanna Fernandez, Jafferhoby Currim and H. D. Broughton; from Colombo, Capt. G. Ro ke; from Penang, Mr. Koerig; from Singapore, Messrs. E. Kempffer, E. H. Symonds, A. Castilho and S. C. Hableem; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, Messrs. W. E. Kinipple, J. R. Steele and E. Rose; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. F. W. Hunt.

DEPARTED.

Per *Caledonien*, for Shanghai, Mrs. H. M. de Souza, Messrs. I. Zeisler, A. Fischer, T. Kaison, W. Pattison Hinrich, A. Stegmann, J. V. Tex and Bro. Paul.

Per *Yarra*, for Saigon, Rev. Crausac, Messrs. William and J. Hewat; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Chuter, Misses Chuter (2), Bros. G. Archange and Mark; for Colombo, Mrs. A. Petersen; for Marseilles, Mrs. Flint and child and Mr. M. Mello.

Per *Athenian*, for Vancouver, &c., Mrs. D. E. Wolfe, Mr. and Mrs. Schellhoss, Mrs. K. M. Cooney, Mrs. M. L. Stanford, Capt. L. E. Ross, Col. Chas. G. Penney, Misses Stewart, G. M. and J. R. Chew, Messrs. W. Beattie, B. W. Cadwellader, J. W. Cameron, R. E. Chambers, T. Bruis J. S. Randall, Edw. G. Stoiber, G. T. Poole, H. Berkley, R. Bruce, G. Stewart, M. A. Mont, G. Shazker, R. H. Whittaker and A. Cameron.

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